

THE LITERARY GAZETTE

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N° 1985.

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THE name of James Montgomery is, by common consent, on the list of illustrious poets who brought honour on English literature in the early part of this century. It was a brilliant epoch of poetry, when scarcely a month passed without some new work, from minstrels like Wordsworth, Southey, Coleridge, Scott, Byron, Campbell, Moore, Rogers, who have, all but the last, now passed away. With less genius and less skill than most of his contemporary bards, there was in the poetry of Montgomery a moral beauty, which rendered him with many readers the most popular of them all. Since Cowper, no one had so nearly come up to the ideal of a Christian poet. The religious character of his works narrowed the circle of his admirers, but where they were known this was regarded as their chief excellence and attractiveness. But it is not as a poet only that a memoir of Montgomery was worthy of being written. Throughout a long life he was distinguished for his public spirit, unwearied benevolence, and unaffected piety. His biography is that of a patriot and a Christian, as well as of a poet and a man of letters. The memory of such a man the world would not willingly let die, and the appearance of the present memoir has been looked for with much interest. Nor will the reader be disappointed. The biographers seem to have been intimately acquainted with the subject of their memoir, and display for his character a genial sympathy and a reverent admiration. The chief fault of the book, we fear, will arise out of the very excess of the esteem in which the memory of "the bard of Sheffield" is held by his friends. This appears at the threshold of the memoir, where his very name is sought to be magnified, by a reference to all the great Montgomeries who have figured in history. The Norman standard, we are told, was gallantly borne by a kinsman of the Conqueror at Hastings, and the name of Montgomery appears in the list of *tenentes in capite* in Domesday Book. Other Montgomeries are immortalized in the ballads of the Battle of Otterburne and of Chevy Chase. After many details of noble and distinguished Montgomeries, the biographers drop down to less romantic records with the remark, "We must now turn awhile to the history of humbler bearers of the honoured name." The poet did indeed write of "the world before the flood," but we hardly think his biographers need have gone so far back even as the Conquest. Had Montgomery written his own memoir he would have rejected such heraldic distinction, with which he had no relation, and with Cowper have said—

"My boast is not that I derived my birth
From loins enthroned, or rulers of the earth;
But higher still my proud pretensions rise,
The son of parents passed into the skies."

James Montgomery was born in 1771, at Irvine, in Ayrshire. His father, who was a Moravian minister, had the pastoral charge of a small congregation of the United Brethren in that town. At four years of age he returned with his parents to the north of Ireland, of which they were natives. On the

subsequent removal of his father to the West Indies, as a missionary, young Montgomery was sent to Fulneck, the Moravian settlement near Leeds, it being the rule among the brethren to provide for the education of the children of their missionaries. In recording the incidents of the poet's boyhood, copious details are given as to the history and the principles of the Moravians. To general readers much of this part of the book at first seems superfluous and out of place, but it must be remembered that the book is professedly a religious as well as a literary biography. At Fulneck James Montgomery remained some years, the intention being to have him trained for the Christian ministry. The boy's studies were too desultory and his tastes too speculative to admit of this plan being carried out. After repeated admonitions, on the score of indolence and inattention, the brethren in charge of the school resolved to divert the boy from the "daydreams" in which he indulged, by apprenticing him in business. He was accordingly placed with a worthy man, who kept a retail shop in a neighbouring village. The next movement of the boy is thus narrated in his own words:—

"Here—at Mirfield—having very little to do but to amuse myself, I grew more unhappy and discontented than ever: in an evil hour I determined to break loose and see the world. I was not bound [by indentures of apprenticeship] to my master, and knew that, if I left him, the Moravians could not compel me to return to him, though I was only sixteen years old. You will smile, and wonder too, when I inform you that I was such a fool as to run away from my master, with the clothes on my back, a single change of linen, and three and sixpence in my pocket. I had just got a new suit of clothes; but as I had only been a short time with my good master, I did not think my little services had earned them. I therefore left him in my old ones; and thus, at the age of sixteen, set out James Montgomery, to begin the world!"

The runaway, who had never thought beforehand where he would go, slept that night at Doncaster, and the next at Wentworth. Here a tradesman from the adjoining village of Wath heard his story, and offered him employment, provided he got the consent of his former master, and the brethren at Fulneck. This was obtained, and he served for a year in Mr. Hunt's humble shop, a position not preferable to his former one, except that he felt the pleasure of liberty, and saw less difficulty in the way of any future movement.

"Although but little more than eighteen years of age, Montgomery was remarkably grave, serious, and silent; exemplarily steady and industrious in his situation, rarely associating with any of the villagers, but devoting the whole of his leisure hours to reading and the composition of poetry. It will readily be supposed that an important personage to him would be a bookseller, because this profession was associated in his mind with the publication of verse, with all its splendid and flattering concomitants. Such a friend he found in a Mr. Brameld, who kept a small stationer's shop at Swinton, adjacent to Wath. With him Montgomery soon formed an acquaintance, which tended to flatter and stimulate the genius of the youthful poet. It should be mentioned, as creditable to his industry and prudence, that, with the exception of these visits to Swinton, and once when called upon by a Moravian friend, he never spent an evening out of his master's house. Having resided about a year at this place, his way to London was prepared by the transmission of a volume of his MS. poetry, accompanied by a letter from Brameld to Harrison, the bookseller in Paternoster-row: in a few days the poet followed, leaving with regret the family of Mr. Hunt, where

he had been treated with the utmost attention and kindness."

In a letter to his friend, Joseph Aston, written in 1798, Montgomery describes the feelings and aspirations of his early youth, which sufficiently explain his restiveness under the monotonous and sombre routine of Moravian fellowship.

"I will not presume to suppose I was born a poet; but I was most certainly born a dissatisfied being, whom nothing but poetic feelings and poetic fame could gratify. At school, almost as early as I can remember, I wooed the Muses; before I was ten years old, I had written a little volume of rhymes; at the age of twelve, I had filled two large ones with the abortions of my brain; and at fourteen, I had composed an heroic-comic poem, in three books, containing above a thousand lines, in imitation of Homer's [battle of the] 'Frogs and Mice.' Unfortunately for my peace of mind, I was encouraged by partial and flattering friends to proceed in my career: I ought to have had a strait waistcoat and straw, instead of the encomiums which were lavished upon me. Fired with an enthusiasm which nothing but the fond hopes of an immortal fame could have inspired in the bosom of a giddy school-boy, and flushed almost to madness with the success of my first flights, I determined to rival—nay, outshine—every bard of ancient or modern times! I have shed many a tear in reading some of the sublimest passages in some of our own poets, to think that I could not equal them. I planned and began at least a dozen epic poems, each to [consist of] as many books. I cannot help smiling many a time, when I am rummaging over the warehouse of my brain, to find among the lumber these unfortunate embryos.

"After a long and difficult choice, I at length pitched upon the subject of the wars in the reign of Alfred the Great."

The visit to London enlarged the young poet's knowledge of life, but led to nothing immediately encouraging, either for fame or fortune.

"Among the visitors at Harrison's shop was I. D'Israeli, at that time inclined to poetry, afterwards author of the 'Curiosities of Literature,' and other delightful works of the same class.

"There was another visitor of a far different character, whom Montgomery was wont sometimes to recall in after life—the celebrated William Huntington, the converted 'coal-heaver,' once a popular but eccentric preacher in Gray's Inn Chapel. Montgomery described him as a short, stiff, elderly man, with a dark-red face, grave and quiet in his manner. His redoubtable compeer in the Calvinistic pulpit, Timothy Priestley, a brother of the well-known philosopher of the name, having published in his 'Looking-Glass' something offensive to 'S. S.,' the 'Sinner Saved,' as Huntington called himself, the latter turned the reflection against his opponent in a pamphlet entitled 'Timothy shaved by his own Glass.'

"Mrs. Charlotte Lennox, author of the 'Female Quixote,' and several other works, but better remembered now as having enjoyed the friendship of Dr. Johnson, was an occasional visitor at the same shop; and, as the first literary lady the youthful poet had seen, his curiosity was stimulated by her history and her appearance, and his feelings were gratified by being allowed to escort her to her carriage in the street."

Montgomery returned disheartened and sad to Yorkshire, and, after some less congenial occupations, he was engaged with Joseph Gales, of Sheffield, printer, bookseller, auctioneer, and publisher of a journal of liberal politics, the 'Sheffield Register.'

"Soon after Montgomery's settlement at Sheffield, there came to solicit employment with Mr. Gales, as a bookbinder, 'a fine-looking young man, with extraordinary eyebrows,' who called himself Johnson, and had been employed by Spence, of York. It afterwards turned out that

the real name of this individual, who soon left Sheffield, was Tegg—the poet always believing him to be the same person afterwards so well known as a London bookseller. Montgomery lived to verify this opinion. Mr. Tegg died April 21, 1846, aged seventy; and, in a brief notice of his enterprising and successful career, which was published in various newspapers at that time, his employment in the office of Mr. Gales was distinctly mentioned.

"It may also be mentioned, that he accidentally saw at this period a poem, the author of which was destined to take no mean rank in that 'living choir' whose songs presently charmed the new century, and nearly the whole of whom he outlived. Among the composers in Mr. Gales's printing-office was one who had been engaged in 'setting up' the matter of the first edition of Rogers's 'Pleasures of Memory,' the proof sheets of which, in quarto size, he had with him. In this shape Montgomery first read an exquisite work, the quiet and varied beauties of which he probably learnt to admire more, after his own taste and judgment had become more matured and chastened than they were at this early and enthusiastic period of his life. This 'press copy' had no author's name; and all that its owner knew on that subject was the rumour, in the London establishment where he had worked, that the poem was written by 'one Parson Harrison!'"

The politics of the 'Register' were considered too revolutionary for those days, and Gales had to escape to America to avoid a criminal prosecution. Young Montgomery, upon this, resolved to continue the paper under the name of the 'Sheffield Iris,' his prospectus disarming hostility by its tone of loyalty and moderation. Though conducted with great caution, and maintaining political opinions which are now universally approved of, the spirit of the 'Iris' was too much in advance of the times, and the editor was twice sent to gaol for sedition. He was thus one of the early champions of that freedom of the press which he lived to see firmly established in England, and which is found to be the best safeguard both of public order and public liberty. Mr. Montgomery's imprisonment in Lancaster Gaol did not impair his usefulness, nor diminish the esteem with which he was regarded by his fellow-citizens of Sheffield. For many years he continued to edit his paper with ability and genius, and his position brought him in contact with many persons of note. A most interesting episode of this period of his life was his acquaintance with Francis Chantrey.

"Montgomery usually mentioned with great complacency the fact that Francis Leggit Chantrey was not only first introduced to the public through the medium of the 'Iris,' but that some of the notices of his ability which appeared in that journal were singularly prophetic of his future renown. In the preceding year, Chantrey had visited Sheffield during the recess of the Royal Academy, at which time he advertised his intention of employing his vacation in painting the portraits, or modelling the features, of his townsmen; but, notwithstanding the cheapness and the novelty of this twofold temptation, he painted few portraits, and only executed two or three busts at this time. * * *

"Chantrey was then scarcely known, even in Sheffield; and as a sculptor he had executed nothing except the two busts alluded to, and another of Mr. Hunt, a painter, and those only in clay. He was painting half portraits in oil, the size of life, at four guineas each!

"It was at this period that Chantrey painted the excellent likeness of Montgomery from which the engraving prefixed to the first volume of these *Memoirs of the Poet* was taken."

In 1806 Montgomery published 'The Wanderer in Switzerland,' the first of his poems which attracted general notice. It was most notably noticed in the 'Eclectic Review,'

then a high literary authority, the names of Robert Hall, John Foster, Olinthus Gregory, and Adam Clarke being among its conductors. With these and other eminent men the poet became acquainted, and was soon enrolled as one of the regular contributors. Most of his prose writings, in the form of critical essays, appeared in this periodical. The works of Scott, Campbell, Southey, Wordsworth, Crabbe, Moore, and other poets of that time, were successively reviewed by him. Meanwhile a severe criticism on his own poetry appeared in the 'Edinburgh Review.' It was generally admitted that an unjust severity was displayed in that article, and the prediction of the reviewer, that the name of the poet would be forgotten in three years, proved signally fallacious. Byron, who had himself fallen under the same critic's lash, made a generous allusion to the attack on Montgomery in his 'Bards and Reviewers.' And in the note to the passage, he says:—"Poor Montgomery, though praised by every English review, has been bitterly reviled in the 'Edinburgh.' After all, the bard of Sheffield is a man of considerable genius; his 'Wanderer in Switzerland' is worth a thousand 'Lyrical Ballads,' and at least fifty 'degraded epics.'" Walter Scott also sent to the young poet a complimentary message, evidently intended to prevent the notion of his sympathy with the offensive article, and afterwards, on the appearance of a review of his own 'Don Roderick' in the 'Iris,' he wrote the following letter to Montgomery:—

"Walter Scott to James Montgomery.

"Aberdeen, Aug. 8, 1811.

"Sir,—I am favoured with a copy of your paper in which you have been so good as to insert an extract from a late poetical attempt of mine with a very flattering introduction. I the more readily embrace the opportunity of returning thanks for your public attention that I have been long desirous of an opportunity of expressing the pleasure I have received from your own poetry, and the interest I have taken in it. I assure you, sir, that having come late as a candidate into the literary world, and being somewhat philosophical respecting popular applause, I am doubly sensible of the value of the approbation of a man of talents, and that I am respectfully,

"Your obliged, humble servant,

"WALTER SCOTT.

"Mr. Montgomery, Sheffield."

We give here other letters, received by him from some of the distinguished poets of the time. When on a visit to London, in 1808, he saw Bloomfield, the author of 'The Farmer's Boy,' then in narrow circumstances, and supporting himself by working with joiners' tools. Montgomery bought from him an Æolian harp, which he always highly valued. Bloomfield wrote this letter in forwarding the instrument to Sheffield:—

"Robert Bloomfield to James Montgomery.

"London, May 28, 1808.

"Dear Sir,—Upbraid me not, if you can help it, for my extreme tardiness. I have had some of the world's cares to buffet with—a long and severe rheumatic winter, and a total privation of the strength and resolution to attend to music or poetry—add to this, my son with a broken leg, which, considering it was that which had been long lame, and must continue so, has been as far restored as reason could crave. He is well, and his father is alive again.

"You know the nature of the instrument I send, and therefore I only observe, that if when placed under the lifted sash, or just inside, so as to conduct a current of air through the strings, it should not play satisfactorily, then take off the top board and place the harp alone on the broadest edge with

the strings rising nearly perpendicularly over each other, and close to an inlet made by lifting the sash about an inch. I have no doubt that it will perform; but I should be glad to hear of any intimations to that effect, at any convenient time. I have been informed that you too have been out of health, or spirits, or both—I know not which, but hope to hear a good account.

"Your harp, I doubt, is too short to admit of larger strings; but you may possibly enjoy quite as much the extreme softness of the smaller ones: that you may, is my hope: and that you may find some amusement from a thing so frail, and not suffer it to be a 'Harp of Sorrow,' is my ardent desire. What is your Muse about? will not this delightful season set you a-going again? Whether it does or not, I remain, sir,

"Your humble servant,
"ROB. BLOOMFIELD."

About the same time he received a communication from Coleridge, in reference to the intended publication of the 'Friend,' the first number of which appeared in June, 1809.

"S. T. Coleridge to James Montgomery.

"Dear Sir,—In desiring a small packet of these prospectuses to be sent to you from Leeds, I have presumed less on myself than on our common friend, Mrs. Basil Montague; but, believe me, by more than by either I have been encouraged by my love and admiration of your works, and my unfeigned affectionate esteem of what I have been so often and so eloquently told by Mrs. M. of your life and character. Conscious how very glad I should be to serve you in any thing, I apply with less discomfort to you in behalf of my own concerns. What I wish is simply to have the prospectuses placed and disposed among such places and persons as may bring the work to the notice of those whose moral and intellectual habits may render them desirous to become subscribers. I know your avocations, and dare not therefore ask you for an occasional contribution. I have received promises of support from some respectable writers, and, for my own part, am prepared to play off my whole power of acquirements, such as they are, in this work, as from the main pipe of the fountain.

"If choice or chance should lead you this way, you will find both here and at Greta Hall, Keswick, house-room and heart-room; for I can add Robert Southey's and William Wordsworth's names to my own, when I declare myself with affectionate respect, dear sir, yours sincerely,

"S. T. COLERIDGE.

"Grasmere, Kendal."

At a later period he corresponded frequently with Southey, some very characteristic letters from whom are given in the work. We quote part of one, written in the beginning of 1812, in which he refers to his own health and way of life:—

"Robert Southey to James Montgomery.

"Keswick, Jan. 2, 1812.

"My dear Montgomery,—You talk of yourself and of me in terms of comparison upon which I must not comment, lest you should be as much pained by the comment as I am by the text. Let that pass. If I had not admired your poetry, and felt it, and loved it, and loved you for its sake, I should not so often have thought of you, and spoken of you, and determined to see you, nor have broken through the belt of ice at last.

"You wish me a sounder frame, both of body and mind, than your own. My body, God be thanked! is as convenient a tenement as its occupier could desire. When you see me you will fancy me far advanced in consumption, so little is there of it; but there has never been more: and though it is by no means unlikely (from family predisposition) that this may be my appointed end, it is not at all the more likely because of my lean and hungry appearance. I am in far more danger of nervous diseases, from which nothing but perpetual self-management, and the fortunate circumstances of my life and disposition, preserve me.

"That I am a very happy man I owe to my early marriage. When little more than one-and-twenty, I married under circumstances as singular as they well could be—and, to all appearances, as improvident; but from that hour to this, I have had reason to bless the day. The main source of disquietude was thus at once cut off; I had done with hope and fear upon the most agitating and most important action of life, and my heart was at rest. Several years elapsed before I became a father; and then the keenest sorrow which I ever endured was for the loss of an only child, twelve months old. Since that event I have had five children, most of whom have been taken from me. Of all sorrows these are the most poignant; but I am the better for them, and never pour out my soul in prayer without acknowledging that these dispensations have drawn me nearer to God."

We quote a few sentences from another long letter, in which Southey speaks of his poetical studies:—

"I know not how it was that in my youth the mythologies and superstitions of various nations laid strong hold on my imagination and struck deep root in it; so that before I was twenty, one of my numerous plans was that of exhibiting the most striking fiction of each in a long poem. Thalaba and Kehama are the fruits of that early plan. Madoc partakes of it, but only incidentally. If I had gained money as well as reputation by these poems, the whole series would ere this have been completed. Do not misunderstand me—when I talk of gaining money, nothing more is meant than supporting myself by my labours; and the literal truth is, that for many years I did not write a line of poetry, because I could not afford it. 'Kehama' was written before breakfast in hours borrowed from sleep; and so is 'Pelayo,' as far as it has yet proceeded. The world is brightening upon me now. I get well paid for prose; and yet even in this the capricious humour of the times is apparent. Some of the best years of my life have been devoted to the 'History of Portugal and its Dependencies,' in a series of works of which only one volume is yet before the public, but upon which as much labour and scrupulous research has been bestowed as ever was or will be given to historical compilation. These works will scarcely, while I live, pay for their own materials; whereas I might be employed, if I chose, from morning till night in reviewing the productions of Messrs. Tag, Rag, and Bobtail, at ten guineas per sheet.

"From the age of eight, my heart was set upon poetry, a passion owing, in the first instance, to Shakespeare, and which would have taken a dramatic turn, if it had not soon been diverted by our execrable modern versions of Tasso and Ariosto, and then fixt by Spenser, for whom I have as entire a love as you can have—and if you had not loved him as I do you would not have spoken of Una. No writer has ever given me such hours and days of intense delight as Spenser. Before I was fifteen I had resolved to finish the 'Faerie Queene.' Three cantos of the intended continuation was part of a huge pile which some years ago I committed to the flames."

At the house of Basil Montague, at Meriton, he once met the celebrated Dr. Parr, of whom the following striking notice is recorded:—

"It was on a Sunday evening, and a goodly company of intelligent persons of both sexes were present: the Doctor, who was expected, came sailing into the room in full canonicals. When he had taken his seat in the splendid apartment, and surrounded as he was by a considerable number of ladies, his pipe was brought, and several fair hands were presently on the alert to reach him the tobacco, a light, &c., whose owners were doubtless anything but fond of either the sight or the smell of the volume of smoke which was soon after emitted. It was not this gentle demonstration of homage and adulation on the part of the sex, so natural and amiable in itself, that so much impressed

Montgomery at the moment, as his own reflection on the conduct of the individual to whom it was paid:—"And is Dr. Parr," said our friend to himself, "really so great a man, that it is immaterial whoever else be annoyed so that his comfort be secured? Or is he so little a man that he cannot, even under such circumstances as these, forego the usual indulgence of his fondness for smoking?" The poet, at a subsequent period, met the old Grecian at the residence of Mr. Roscoe in Liverpool, where he was accommodated with a 'smoking room,' after, as the story goes, having driven from the house by his fumes Sir J. E. Smith, who seems to have had no taste for any of the modes of 'exhibiting' the Indian weed, except that which in the catalogue of the botanist presents '*Tabacum*' as a species of plant belonging to the genus '*Nicotiana*.' On this occasion, the Rev. Dr. Raffles and George Bennet, Esq., were present; the former encountering boldly, and, as Montgomery thought, with great advantage in the argument, Dr. Parr's advocacy of cock-fighting and bull-baiting. When the company went into Roscoe's library, Parr seated himself on a chair, drew it near the fire, and turned his back upon every other person present. On seeing this, Montgomery said to himself, 'I'll try if I cannot move him into a less unsocial position;' and thereupon he plied the Doctor with such a close volley of conversation, that presently he began to wheel about in order to face the enemy, to the satisfaction of those who not only enjoyed the loquacity of the speakers, but seemed to guess aright as to the circumstance which occasioned this display."

The only other extract for which we can afford room is the memorandum of a conversation with one biographers, on the lectures of Campbell and of Coleridge, at the Royal Institution:—

"Montgomery. I heard Campbell deliver one of his Lectures on Poetry at the Royal Institution before one of the most brilliant audiences I ever saw assembled on such an occasion.

"Holland. Was Lord Byron present?

"Montgomery. He did not make his appearance that evening, and I was disappointed in the expectation I had entertained of seeing him. You could not look upon the company without recognising some individual eminent in rank, or distinguished in literature: but the moment the lecturer began, I had no longer a disposition to regard the celebrities about me. He read from a paper before him; but in such an energetic manner, and with such visible effect, as I should hardly have supposed possible. His statements were clear, his style elegant, and his reasoning conclusive. After having wound up the attention of his hearers to the highest pitch, brought his arguments to a magnificent climax, and closed with a quotation from Shakespeare, in his best manner, off he went, like a rocket! This lecture was the more striking, from its contrast with that delivered by Coleridge the evening before from the same rostrum. In the former case, the lecturer, though impressing us at once, and in a high degree, with the power of genius, occasionally accompanied the most sublime but inconclusive trains of reasoning with the most intense—not to say painful—physiognomical expression I ever beheld; his brows being knit, and his cheeks puckered into deep triangular wrinkles, by the violence of his own emotions. But, notwithstanding the frequent obscurity of his sentiments, and this 'painful' accompaniment, when the lecture closed, you could not say you had been disappointed.

"Everett. What were the subjects of the lectures?

"Montgomery. Campbell's was on the French and English rhyming tragedies, and Coleridge's on Greek tragedy.

"Holland. I think Campbell has the best managed powers of any living poet, and exceeds Coleridge as much in taste as he is inferior to him in the deep pathos of pure genius.

"Montgomery. I believe that is about the fact: whatever Campbell undertakes he finishes; Cole-

ridge too often leaves splendid attempts incomplete: the former, when I heard him, seemed like a race-horse, starting, careering, and coming in with admirable effect: the latter resembled that of one of the King's heavy dragons, rearing, plunging, and prancing in a crowd, performing grand evolutions, but making little or no progress.

"Everett. It is to be regretted that Campbell has not published his lectures.

"Montgomery. I believe they have been purchased by Colburn, and are to appear in the 'New Monthly Magazine.'

"Everett. What is your opinion of his 'Specimens of the British Poets'?

"Montgomery. His Essay on English Poetry, comprised in the first volume, is admirable; his selections are good, and some of them rare; and you are sorry that his critical remarks are so brief on several of the authors of his 'Specimens.' I was requested to review the work for the 'Eclectic,' but declined the task.

"Montgomery was introduced to Campbell at the close of the lecture, as he had previously been to Coleridge, who pressed him to spend a day at Highgate.

The present volumes only bring the life of the poet down to the year 1812. The 'World before the Flood' was published the year previously, but on this and Montgomery's other poems we reserve any remarks until the biography is further advanced. Of the length of the work it is needless for us to complain. We should have liked the memoir more condensed, but we can scarcely blame authors for meeting the demand for copious details in popular biography.

A Handbook of Proverbs, comprising Ray's Collection, with a Complete Alphabetical Index, and Additional Proverbs and Sentences. Collected by Henry G. Bohn. H. G. Bohn.

PROFESSOR TRENCH, in his entertaining and philosophical treatise on 'The Lessons in Proverbs,' has remarked that these sayings, while enjoying popular currency, have been always precious to the true intellectual aristocracy of a nation. Aristotle made a collection of them in his time; the readers of Don Quixote know how much Cervantes regarded the proverbs of his country; and our own Shakespeare enriches his pages with many an example of English mother wit and wisdom. In the too frequent use of proverbs, whether in writing or in conversation, there may be impropriety of taste, but none can study too much the experience of human nature and of human life, expressed in these national and popular sentences. Of the nature of proverbs many definitions have been offered, but it is not of much consequence to have any rigid and formal interpretation of the word. It has been said that three things go to make up a proverb—shortness, sense, and salt, qualities analogous to those which Martial long ago described as essential to a good epigram.—

"Omne epigramma sit instar apic; aculeus illi,
Sint sua mella, sit et corporis exiguu.
Three things must epigrams, like bees, have all,
A sting, and honey, and a body small."

Ray's notion of a proverb was—"a short sentence or phrase in common use, containing some trope, figure, homonymy, rhyme, or other novelty of expression." It is on 'Ray's Collection of English Proverbs' that the present volume is founded. The volume consists of 580 pages, the text of Ray occupying nearly one-half, and the rest of the book containing an alphabetical index, with numerous additional proverbs, maxims, and sentences

interspersed, gathered by the editor from a variety of sources. Ray's collection was first published in 1670, and has been frequently reprinted, with additions and improvements. The author's prefaces, and those of subsequent editors are here given, in which the original sources whence the materials were derived are enumerated. In the early part of the volume the arrangement of the proverbs is left, as in the text of Ray, and to each a reference is made in the index, where alphabetical order is alone regarded. The attempt to classify all proverbs is utterly vain, but there is some convenience in the groups gathered by Ray, under such heads as 'Proverbs relating to health, diet, and physic,' 'Proverbs relating to love, wedlock, and women,' and 'Proverbs relating to husbandry, weather, and the seasons.' We give some of the proverbs that relate to Candlemas-day:—

"If Candlemas-day be fair and bright,

Winter will have another night;

If on Candlemas-day it be shower and rain

Winter is gone, and will not come again."

"February fills the dike, be it black or be it white,

But if it be white it's the better to like."

"The hind had as lief see his wife on the bier

Than that Candlemas-day should be bright and clear."

"When Candlemas-day is come and gone

The snow lies on a hot stone."

"On Candlemas-day you must have half your straw and half your hay."

The editor justly observes that omissions, imperfections, and redundancies are inseparable from a work of this kind, but he has reason to claim for the present collection the distinction of being the most comprehensive and complete volume of proverbs yet published in the English language. It is by far the best and fullest collection with which we are acquainted, and forms a rich storehouse of instruction and amusement. The additional proverbs and sentences collected by Mr. Bohn are the fruit of much reading and industry, while judgment is shown in selecting from abundant materials.

Knowledge is Power. A View of the Productive Forces of Modern Society, and the Results of Labour, Capital, and Skill. By Charles Knight. Murray.

MR. KNIGHT'S book is a history of modern civilization, in so far as it results from the development of national wealth and the progress of science. All the triumphs of modern art and skill are duly chronicled, and the mechanical and commercial arrangements are described, which mark the superiority of the present over former ages of the world. The progress of political economy is also recorded, but to this less prominence is given than to changes that have proceeded from the independent genius or combined industry of the people. In truth, the advancement of that power which arises from knowledge has often taken place not by aid of, but in spite of rulers and governments. Political reform has followed in the path of material improvements. The inventions of modern times are continually supplying new material guarantees, not only for the physical well-being, but for the social and political amelioration of mankind. The headings of two of the chapters of Mr. Knight's treatise will exhibit the direction of such influences:—

"Chapter XXI.—Invention of printing—Effects of that art—A daily newspaper—Provincial newspapers—News-writing of former periods—Changes in the character of newspapers—Steam conveyance—Electric telegraph—Organization of a London

newspaper-office—The printing-machine—The Paper-machine—Bookbinding—Paper-duty.

"Chapter XXII.—Power of skill—Cheap production—Population and production—Partial and temporary evils—Intelligent labour—Division of labour—General knowledge—The Lowell Offering—Union of forces."

From this part of the book we give one extract, on topics of universal interest, the newspaper and the electric telegraph:—

"At the beginning of the present century the public used to look with wonder upon their 'folio of four pages,' and contrast it with the scanty chronicles of the days of Charles II. and Anne. We of the present time, in the same way, contrast our newspapers with the meagre records of the beginning of the century. The essential difference has been produced by steam navigation, by railways, by the extension of the post, dependent upon both applications of steam, and by the electric telegraph. The same scientific forces and administrative organization that bring the written news from every region of the earth, re-convey the printed news to every region. It is sufficient to glance at the lists of foreign mails, and the low rates of postage from the United Kingdom, to see the enormous extent of that intercourse which enables our government, by the packet service, to transmit a letter for sixpence to the British West Indies, to Hong Kong, to our North American colonies, to Belgium; to nearly all the German States, by a uniform British and foreign rate, for eightpence; to France, Algeria, Spain, and Portugal, for tenpence; to the Italian States for a trifle more; to Turkey in Europe for one shilling and five pence; and to India for one shilling and tenpence. With this certain and rapid intercourse, it is not likely that the least enterprising newspaper editor would have to repeat the doubt of L'Estrange, who says, 'Once a week may do the business; yet if I shall find, when my hand is in, and after the planting and securing my correspondents, that the matter will fairly furnish more, I shall keep myself free to double at pleasure.'"

"It is the external communication so wonderful in our own times, we repeat, which has chiefly changed the character of our newspapers. When we read in a London daily paper the one line, 'The Overland Mail—by electric telegraph,'—we have two facts of the highest significance. 'The Overland Mail' would appear, of itself, a marvel great enough for one age. The Overland Mail has brought London within a month of Bombay. It has joined India most effectually to England for all commercial and state purposes. It gives us the news of India, by the aid of the electric telegraph, in as little time as we ordinarily received news from Vienna at the beginning of the eighteenth century. The steamer and the electric telegraph made the blood of England beat quicker in every heart, when our newspapers recorded, on the 13th of November, the most sanguinary and heroic battle of modern times, fought in the Crimea only a week previous. When Marlborough was setting out for his campaign of 1709, and so many political, if not patriotic, hopes, were fixed upon the probable issue, 'The Tatler,' then a newspaper, had the following paragraph:—'We learn from Brussels, by letters dated the 20th, that on the 14th, in the evening, the Duke of Marlborough and Prince Eugene arrived at Courtray, with a design to proceed the day following to Lisle, in the neighbourhood of which city the confederate army was to arrive the same day.' The account of the movement of the great allied generals was transmitted from Brussels six days after the movement had taken place, Courtray being only distant forty-six miles; and the important news from Brussels, of the 20th May, was published in London on the 28th, London being distant some 250 miles. The distance from Balaklava to London is about 3000 miles.

"The function of a great newspaper, in connexion with the positions of armies and the events of siege and battle, is as different from the function

of the journalist of fifty years ago, as the rapid firing of the soldier of the Alma with his Minié rifle contrasts with the slow evolutions of the old hand-gunner. In the war with Russia the presence of the newspaper reporter gives a new feature, strikingly characteristic of our times and our country. It is necessary to have the earliest and the most detailed accounts of this eventful contest; for the people, one and all, understand that they are deeply interested in its issue, and that, if their country fails to assert the superiority of freedom and intelligence over slavery and barbarism, the material prosperity of that country can be of no long duration. Wisely, therefore, did the London daily papers each send their active, fearless, and eloquent correspondents, to endure some of the hardships of the march and the bivouac—to observe the battlefield, not secure from its dangers—to write of victories, surrounded by the dead and dying—to be the historians of a day, and thus to furnish the best materials for all future historians.

"What the carrier-pigeon was in the conveyance of intelligence in the middle ages, and even within a few years, the electric telegraph is in the present day. The carrier-pigeon went out from a besieged castle, to ask for succour, in eastern countries, five centuries ago. The electric telegraph, land and submarine, brings the tidings of slaughter and sickness from Sebastopol, and England and France send instant reinforcements. The carrier-pigeon, in the last century, was despatched by the merchants of the English factory, from Scanderon to Aleppo, to announce the arrival of the company's ships. The electric telegraph communicates to London the arrival of an Australian packet at Southampton. Within the last ten years one of the annual expenses of a London newspaper was 1800*l.* for pigeon expresses. The pigeons have lost their employment. The price of stocks and shares in Change-alley is known every quarter of an hour upon the exchanges of our great commercial marts; and the closing price of the French funds is in type before midnight at our daily newspaper-offices. The carrier-pigeon travelled sixty miles an hour. The time which it takes to transmit a message by the electric telegraph is inappreciable. The newspapers of the United States employ the electric telegraph far more extensively than our English papers; for the distances between one State and one city and another State and another city are so great, that steam travelling would not accomplish the object of communication with sufficient rapidity. The density of our population renders the employment of the telegraph less necessary for the ordinary transmission of intelligence. But private curiosity, in a time of great public interest, steps in; and one of the most remarkable exhibitions of our provincial towns at the time at which we are writing—when an agonizing anxiety for the fortunes of our heroic defenders in the Black Sea is the chief thought of millions—is the crowd about the telegraph-office to know something more than the morning paper, brought by railway speed, can furnish to this universal excitement. In America the distance between Quebec and New Orleans, a distance of 3000 miles, is overleaped by the electric telegraph. Two lines, each 2000 miles long, connect New York with New Orleans; and over this space messages are transmitted, and answers received, in three hours. When we read long paragraphs in the London morning papers, received by electric telegraph after midnight from Paris, we wonder how this is accomplished. Eighteen words, which are equal to about two newspaper lines, are transmitted every minute; and the full message from Dover, carefully transcribed, is in the hands of the newspaper editor in half an hour.

"To carry out all this scientific conquest of time and space, by the most perfect mental and mechanical arrangements in the newspaper-office itself, appears, at first sight, almost as great a wonder as the rapid communication. Nothing but the most perfect organization of the division of labour could accomplish the feat.

"There is, after midnight, in the office of a morning paper, a constant necessity for adapting the labour of every quarter of an hour to the re-

quirements of the instant time. Much of the newspaper matter may have been in type in the evening; some portion may be quite ready for printing off. But new necessities may derange much of this preparation. Say that the Parliament is sitting. The reporters are in the gallery at the meeting of the House, and each arrives at the office with his assigned portion of the debate. A heavy night is not expected, and the early reporters write with comparative fullness. Suddenly an unexpected turn is given to the proceedings. A great debate springs up, out of a ministerial statement or an opposition objection. Then come reply and rejoinder. Column after column is poured in. Smaller matters must give way to greater. The intelligence that will keep is put aside for the information that is pressing. The debate is prolonged till one or two o'clock, and the paper is approaching its completion. But an electric telegraph communication has arrived—perhaps an important express. Away goes more news. Advertisements, law reports, police reports, correspondence—all retire into obscurity for one day. There is plenty of manipulating power in the great body of compositors to effect these changes. But not in any department is there any apparent bustle. Nor is there any neglect in the labours that wait upon the work of the compositors. One word is not put for another. The readers are as vigilant to correct every error—to have no false spelling and no inaccurate punctuation—as if they were bestowing their vigilance upon a book to be published next season. The reporters are as careful to make no slips which would indicate a want of knowledge, as if they were calmly writing in their libraries after breakfast. The one-presiding mind of the editor is watchful over all. At four or five o'clock the morning paper goes to press."

Besides the historical and descriptive parts of his book, Mr. Knight discusses various questions of political economy, which have not yet been practically tested in this country. Such are the limitation of responsibility in partnership, the better organization of labour, with view to mutual profits, on which, and on similar subjects, the author's views, as a man of experience and sound judgment, deserve attention. The book is full of valuable information, both as to the facts and the principles of political economy. It is illustrated with numerous woodcuts.

The Rural Economy of England, Scotland, and Ireland. By Léonce de Lavergne. Translated from the French, with Notes by a Scottish Farmer. Blackwood and Sons.

ALTHOUGH prepared for the instruction of his own countrymen, this report on British agriculture, by an intelligent and impartial Frenchman, will be read with much interest on this side of the Channel. Nor is it only to those connected with agricultural pursuits that the book will be acceptable. The author does not confine himself to statistical facts and descriptive details, but deals with the history and philosophy of his subject, and in the record of his personal observations he illustrates general principles capable of universal application. Thus, along with the accounts of the soil and climate of Great Britain, and the particular features of the farming in the various parts of the country, there are chapters devoted to social and political questions, with which the prosperity of agriculture is closely connected. The constitution of property in England, rents, profits, wages, the habits and manners of the people, the love of rural life, and the political institutions of the country, are all discussed, and comparisons drawn with the social condition of France in these respects. M. de Lavergne maintains

that the inferiority of France to England in agriculture, is more due to political and economical causes than to deficient science or skill.

"The agricultural condition of a people is not an isolated fact, but part of a great whole. The responsibility of the imperfect state of our agriculture does not attach altogether to our cultivators; its ulterior progress depends not solely upon them, or, rather, it is not by fixing their attention on the soil that they will altogether be able to avail themselves of the phenomena there presented, but by endeavouring again to rise to the general laws which govern the economical development of communities.

"Hitherto they have had little taste for such studies; they reject them almost unanimously, as practically useless and dangerous: I believe them to be mistaken, and I hope to prove it to them. Practically, there can be no good agricultural without a good economical condition; the one is the effect, the other the cause."

Among the causes of agricultural wealth, the first place is given to the love of country life which pervades the national character. The author says that this rural spirit is natural to Englishmen. Both Saxons and Normans are children of the forest. It is otherwise with nations in which the Latin stock predominates.

"Wherever the Roman spirit was preserved—in Italy, Spain, and, to a certain extent, in France—a predilection for town life was early manifested. The Roman fields were abandoned to the slaves; all who aspired to distinction resorted to the city. The name alone of peasant, *villicus*, was a term of contempt, and the name of city was associated with elegance and politeness, *urbanitas*. In the modern Latin communities these prejudices still prevail. In our own day we still look upon the country as a sort of exile, and it is still more so with the Italians and Spaniards. The desire of all is to live in town, for there intellectual enjoyment, refinement, society, and the means of making money, are to be found. Among the Germans, and especially in England, the manners of the people are different. The Englishman is less sociable than the Frenchman; he still retains something of the wild race from which he is descended; he has a repugnance to being shut up within the walls of towns; the open air is his natural element.

"The national literature, as expressive of manners and customs, contains throughout marks of this distinctive trait in the English character. England is the country of descriptive poetry; almost all their poets have lived in the country, and sung of it. Even when English poetry took ours for its model, Pope celebrated Windsor Forest, and wrote pastorals: if his style was not rural, his subjects were. Before him Spenser and Shakspeare wrote admirable rustic poetry; the song of the lark and nightingale still resounds, after the lapse of centuries, in *Juliet's* impassioned farewell to *Romeo*. Milton—the sectarian Milton—employed his finest verse in a description of the first garden, and in the midst of revolutions and business his fancy carried him towards the ideal fields of *Paradise Lost*.

"But it was principally after the Revolution of 1688, when England, now free, began to be herself, that all her writers became deeply impressed with the love of country life. It was then that Gray and Thomson appeared; the first in his *Elegies*, and among others his 'Country Churchyard,' the other in his poem of the *Seasons*, striking in delightful sounds this favourite chord of the British lyre. The *Seasons* abound with admirable description; it is sufficient to instance the hay-making, harvest, and sheep-shearing, the latter being already in Thomson's time a great business in England; and among the pleasures of the country, his account of trout-fishing. The angler, at the present day, may find in this little descriptive picture his favourite art fully detailed. The feeling

is everywhere lively and spontaneous—enthusiasm, real and deep, for the beauties of nature and the sweets of labour. To these Thomson joins that quiet high religious feeling which almost always accompanies a solitary and laborious life, in the presence of the never-ending wonders of the vegetable creation. It pervades the whole poem, especially in the concluding part, where he likens the awakening of the human soul after death to nature after winter.

"It was at the very time when desertion of the country with us had reached its height that Thomson was celebrating its praises: this was in 1730. The nobles, attracted to court by Richelieu and Louis XIV., at last gave up all thoughts about their paternal estates in the orgies of the Regency. Agriculture, enfeebled by the extravagances of Versailles, gradually lost all vitality; and French literature, having other topics to occupy it, could only afford to the cultivation of our land this terrible description of La Bruyère, which will ever remain as a cry of remorse from the Great Age: 'We behold throughout the country a set of ferocious-looking creatures, both male and female, dark, livid, and scorched with the sun, attached to the land which they dig and grub with an untiring pertinacity: their voice has a resemblance to that of man, and when they rise on their feet, they exhibit a human countenance; they are, in fact, men. At night they retire to dens, where they live upon black bread, water, and roots. They save other men the labour of sowing and reaping, and certainly do not deserve to be without that bread which they themselves have sown.'

"In the *Henriade*, which made its appearance about the same time as the *Seasons*, it is mentioned that there was not even grass for the horses.

"In England when a man has not the good fortune to possess a country place of his own, he will at least have it in appearance. Every town has its public park, which is just a large grass field with fine trees in it. In London, cows and sheep are to be seen quietly grazing in the Green Park, or Hyde Park, amidst the incessant noise of carriages passing along Piccadilly. The man constantly occupied in business may at least see, in passing, a corner of Eden. It is the desire of all to have their place of residence as far as possible from the heart of the town, so as to be nearer the fields; and in the summer all escape as soon as they can, to visit a friend at his farm, or to make a few days' tour in some pretty part of the country. Wherever the scenery is at all picturesque, there the people flock to enjoy that quiet happiness peculiar to the English. The favourite trip is into Scotland, where one may breathe the pure air of the heather hills, and picture to himself the roving life of the catanans, as described by Sir Walter Scott.

"The English sovereigns show the first example for this universal predilection, living as they do as little as possible in town. The fancy farm of Trianon was but a shortlived amusement to Louis XVI. and Marie Antoinette, but Queen Victoria and Prince Albert take a real pleasure in farming. The Prince has a farm at Windsor, where the finest cattle in the three kingdoms are bred and fattened. His produce generally gains the first prizes at the agricultural shows. At Osborne, where she spends the greatest part of the year, the Queen herself takes great interest in her poultry-yard; and the newspapers have lately announced a cure which her Majesty has discovered for a particular disease among turkeys. We may laugh at this, but our neighbours take it very seriously, and they have good reason for doing so too. Happy and wise among nations is the people which loves to see its princes engaged in useful relaxations!

"The beneficial effects produced upon the land by the habitual residence of families at their country places may easily be conceived. While, in France, field-labour goes to pay for town luxury, in England town-work pays for the luxury of the country. Almost everything which the most industrious nation in the world can produce is there consumed, to the benefit of farming. The

more a proprietor lives on his property, the more disposed is he to keep it in good order. Pride is the great stimulus. A man does not like to let his neighbours see buildings in ruins, bad roads, defective harness, ill-conditioned cattle, neglected fields: he therefore lays out his pride productively, just as elsewhere it is spent in folly from the force of example. In England, a man has his pretty country place just as in Paris they have their fine hotels and rich furniture."

Not less striking are the remarks on the connexion between agricultural prosperity and good government, and in this a contrast is drawn between France and England:—

"It is perfectly evident, then, that both in France and England agricultural development has followed in the train of good government. The rural change which took place in France between 1760 and 1848, had already taken place in England between 1650 and 1800; the producing causes in both cases were the same. The difference between England under the Stuarts and in the time of Pitt, is the same as that of France under Louis XV. and Louis Philippe. But this does not apply to France and England alone. In ancient as well as in modern times, agricultural prosperity came and went with the mode of government. Republican Rome cultivated its fields admirably; enslaved Rome neglected them. Spain, during the middle ages, did wonders in cultivation, while the Spain of Philip II. ceased to work. Switzerland and Holland fertilise rugged mountains and hopeless marshes; the Sicilian starves on the most fertile soil. As Montesquieu remarks, in his '*Esprit des Loix*,' 'It is not fertility, but liberty, which cultivates a country.'

"Liberty has been all the more influential in England, owing to its not having been accompanied by those disorders which have too often tarnished and disgraced it elsewhere. Notwithstanding those apparent agitations which, with the most sober-minded people, the exercise of political rights always involves, the basis of English society remained tranquil. Changes which time brings about, and which constitute the life of nations, have been effected imperceptibly, and without any of those violent shocks which are always destructive to capital: even the event of 1688 had the least possible of a revolutionary character. This national moderation is usually ascribed to aristocratic influence. No doubt aristocracy had its weight in the matter, but so far only as its influence in society extends. For a long time past the British Government has seemed to be more aristocratic than it really was, but now even the appearance diminishes daily.

"The true ballast of the body politic—the salt of society, that which holds it together—is the country feeling. This feeling, no doubt, is of an aristocratic kind, but it is not aristocracy itself; both may exist independently. British aristocracy has made common cause with the country feeling, and this is what constitutes its strength; French aristocracy holds itself aloof from it, and herein lies its weakness. In England, the country life of the upper classes has, in the first place, produced energetic and high-minded habits, out of which the constitution has taken its rise; and then, owing to these very habits, liberty has been prevented from running into excesses. This liberal and conservative element has been wanting to us in France. In our own day, as formerly, absenteeism has effected, even in a political point of view, nearly all the mischief; and this is the reason why these two apparently distinct causes of prosperity—liberty without revolutions, and the country feeling—are really but one."

In his account of the rural economy of Scotland, the author also devotes a large space to a description of the social and political state of the country and its people. In describing the condition of the Highlands, M. de Lavergne writes in a very different spirit from M. de Sismondi, who only saw the dark side of the revolution which took place in the

depopulation of the mountainous districts. After giving a faithful narrative of the celebrated 'Sutherland clearings,' the author proceeds:—

"The history of Sutherlandshire is more or less that of the whole Highlands. Wherever it has been practicable to displace the whole population, they have been succeeded by sheep. Where the soil is a little better, and the depopulation therefore less complete, a few oats and turnips are cultivated round the farm houses; and, in addition to the sheep, we find a few horned cattle. These cattle, well known under the name of West Highlanders, are just the old race of the country, which, through care and attention, have acquired a fullness of flesh and an uncommon aptitude for fattening. The cattle-stealers of 'Waverley' would now scarcely recognise these animals as the progeny of the small beasts they used to drive before them on returning from their marauding excursions—hundreds of which they used to hide in their caves. One will now weigh as much as five or six of former days.

"It was Archibald, Duke of Argyll, who, about the middle of the last century, began to improve this breed, which has now reached its climax. As shaggy as a bear, and of a black or brown colour, they have still, at first sight, a wild look, quite in keeping with the locality from whence they come. But their leisurely gait and quiet eye soon show that they also have lost their former wildness, and that they have little in common with their fierce brethren of Andalusia, trained for the fight. No change has been made in their general mode of life. Like the sheep, they never enter a shed, but live, night and day, summer and winter, in the open air, and obtain their only food upon the mountains, where the hand of man has never scattered a seed.

"The British, as a nation, are rough-mannered. They do things harshly, and often take the wrong way of doing them when really their ultimate object is right. The heirs of the large Scotch fiefs evidently went too far in employing force to reduce their vassals. It would have been better had they trusted to time—which soon passes—for the change to have taken place of its own accord. Even although constraint had been necessary, it was scarcely advisable to have exercised it towards a people whose devotion to them amounted even to fanaticism. With this exception, the effect of the displacement has been beneficial, useful, and well ordered, both in an agricultural and political point of view. This has been abundantly proved, after fifty years' experience. The Scotch themselves allow that, if there exists any ground for regret, it is that the operation has not everywhere been as complete as in Sutherlandshire. A sufficient justification for the expulsion of their predecessors appears in the fact that, in those parts where the Highlanders still remain too numerously congregated, they are in a state of misery, and the force of circumstances must no doubt cause them gradually to disappear.

"In his entire condemnation of what took place in the Highlands, M. de Sismondi has fallen into several errors. He has spoken of Sutherlandshire as a country in the ordinary state of fertility and civilization; and what he regarded as an abuse of property, has made him forget the insufficiency of production and the danger of a state of barbarism. When a soil and climate are not sufficiently productive conveniently to maintain a human population, is it not rather to be desired that the people remove elsewhere? It matters little, whether a portion of the produce is collected by the proprietor in the shape of rent, or whether all the production goes to be divided among those who till the ground: the proportion may alter, but the real difficulty of the case remains. Supposing the Highlanders had been recognised as proprietors of their native soil, a change of locality would still, under the circumstances, have been necessary for the majority.

"This first question being disposed of, the second, that of rent, next comes. Is it advanta-

geous, is it legitimate, that such a country should produce a rent? I do not hesitate to answer that it is. Even the worst lands make no exception to the general rule. All land, to be really useful to the community, ought to produce something over and above the expenses of production. This surplus is for the support of those who do not till the land; that is to say, for those who give themselves up to industrial and commercial pursuits, and to the arts and sciences. Every country which has no net produce is condemned to barbarism. Although impelled altogether by personal interest, the heads of the Scotch clans have been instrumental in carrying out that great social law which makes the payment of rent the very principle of civilization. Without rent there is no division of labour; no wealth, no comfort, no intellectual development. Besides, we almost invariably find that when the net produce is increased, so also is the gross. The Highlands produce infinitely more than they did a century ago—not only in respect to rent, but in everything.

"After all, these mountain districts do not yield more than 1s. per acre to the proprietors. The tenants make about as much, and the common shepherds receive about 40l. a-year—ten times more, certainly, than their forefathers ever earned.

"It is just the same with the displaced population; they were starving in the interior of the country for want of profitable occupation, but now they are in prosperous circumstances on the seacoast, where they can always find remunerative employment. This people, once so formidable to their neighbours, have changed their state of lawlessness for an industrious and steady life. There has, then, been no falling off in work and comfort, as M. de Sismondi alleges, but a marked increase in both."

We have selected these extracts from M. de Lavergne's book, in order to show that it contains matter interesting to the general reader as well as valuable to the agriculturist. So much, indeed, is said upon subjects of social and political economy, that we are not surprised that the author was interdicted from public teaching in Paris. The materials of the present volume were prepared for delivery, in the form of a course of lectures on Rural Economy, at the Agricultural National Institute. When denied the opportunity of using them in the way of oral teaching, portions were published, as articles in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*. The course of Rural Economy is now preparing for publication, in as great completeness as the literary censorship of the press in France will allow. Meanwhile the preceptive part of the subject is preceded by a practical demonstration of its utility in this report on British agriculture. England is as much before any continental country in agricultural as in industrial and economical pursuits. The author has done good service to his country, in preparing a work from which useful lessons may be drawn. English agriculturists may also derive profit from its study. The general reader will find clear and concise information on many subjects which lie out of the way of ordinary literature. The perusal of the work may well make Englishmen prouder of their country, and of the happy institutions under which they live. The best wish that we can have for the nation with which we are now happily allied, is that France may emulate and equal the agricultural and economical prosperity of Great Britain.

We have only to add that the translation seems to be made with care and accuracy, and the notes, by a Scottish Farmer, while they correct some slight errors in the original work, convey information which increases the value of the volume.

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The Neighbours of Russia, and History of the Present War. By John Reynell Morell. T. Nelson and Sons.

Few writers of the present time have so thorough an acquaintance as Mr. Morell with all that has been lately published on Russian affairs, and in this volume he has compressed the results of his reading and researches. From the best sources of information descriptions are given of the different regions adjacent to the Danube, the Black Sea, and the Baltic, which have been, or are likely to be, the chief scenes of the war. Notices, historical, descriptive, and statistical, are also added, of other countries not directly concerned with passing events, but to a greater or less extent influenced by Russian politics, such as Austria and Hungary, Persia and Afghanistan, Denmark and Sweden. The political scope of the book will be seen in the following summary of arguments on the existing state of public affairs. Of the decisive and speedy defeat of Russia the author has no doubt, if the English Government were not deterred, by other motives, from proceeding to extreme measures.

"To satisfy the reader that we have not been guilty of exaggeration in saying that Russia is at the mercy of England and France, we will adduce a few arguments that appear to us to be conclusive.

"First, we have previously observed, that if men of energy and integrity managed our affairs, we should have an auxiliary force in Circassia, and Schamyl could trust in an honest, manly, and spirited support. The Allies would speedily sweep the Russians from the Caucasian Isthmus, take the Crimea in flank and rear, reduce Sebastopol and Odessa, and cut off the Russian army in Moldavia.

"Secondly, if we made use of the terrible elements of disaffection now existing in Russia, the Czar's rule would soon cease. The best Russian authorities assure us that the Ruthenians, or Malo-Russians, are burning to shake off the yoke, and that the numerous Duchoborzi, and Staroveritze, forming sects of heretics throughout the Empire, are not over-friendly with a government which has shown them the charity and veracity of Spanish Inquisitors. A large portion of the Russian officers are Liberals in disguise, ready to revolt; Siberia is an atmosphere of Democracy and Socialism, and Poland is a smothered volcano. Here are elements of success; but Prussian Ministers and the Austrian Government will ignore them, because they prefer imperial anarchy and constitutional tyranny to the emancipation and welfare of Europe.

"Another and a sufficient argument to prove the desperate position of Russia, may be found in the siege of Silistria, and the heroism of the Ottoman armies. Turkey alone, if she had not been impeded by Western diplomacy, would have signally defeated Russia long ere this. The position of the Russian army in Turkey in 1829 was desperate, at a time of the greatest prostration of the Porte. A Russian force would never have crossed the Pruth if we had not deterred the Turks from opposing it; and an equal Turkish force would have met the Russian fleet and destroyed it at Sinope, if we had not interfered with their movements with our diplomacy.

"A fifth argument is the fact, that we could ruin Russia, through her trade, within a given time, if we had not bound ourselves to spare, and even aid her, by absurd commercial regulations in a time of war, by the continuance of the Russo-Dutch loan, against common sense and justice, which amounts to robbing England in order to support Russia in destroying us, and by sparing our foe in a way that would be considered tender in a friend.

"Lastly, and above all, England and France could destroy Russia to-morrow, by encouraging

democracy and the insurrection of oppressed nations throughout the Continent. If Hungary were set free, and Kossuth restored, not a Russian soldier would repass the Pruth. But the Germans prefer to negotiate at Vienna, and to trifle away the honour and freedom of nations over card-tables in Berlin drawing-rooms. If Poland were encouraged, Petersburg, Finland, and the Baltic coast would fall into our power, and the serpent would be deprived of its sting. Hungary and Poland united would soon bring the German princes to their senses, as they have done many times before; and united with Turkey, they could dictate any terms to Russia.

"The power of Russia lies not in her arms, but in her diplomacy; and so soon as Democracy reigns triumphant on the Continent, and the despots tremble on their thrones, the strength of Russia departs. Threaten Prussia in her Rhenish provinces, Austria in Italy and Hungary, and they cannot stir; or, if they dare to oppose you, they will be gathered to the past.

"Such is our game; but governments that are based on fictions or fallacies instead of principles, can seldom venture on bold or safe measures, and generally make great mistakes. Napoleon the Great committed the fatal error of truckling to Austria, and he fell.

"It must be evident to all who call things by their right names, that the petty German Cabinets are determined not to suffer Nicholas, the great supporter of order, to be crushed, and that they will take the first opportunity of plotting a disgraceful and disastrous peace."

The concluding part of the volume is occupied with a narrative of long diplomatic contests that preceded the open declaration of war, and of the chief events of the campaigns in the Danubian Principalities and in the Crimea until the opening of the present year.

NOTICES.

War Waits. By Gerald Massey. Bogue.

GERALD MASSEY's descriptions of the scenes and events of the war are spirited, but at the same time so crude and irregular that they cannot have more than a passing interest. Vigour without refinement, and genius without taste, will never achieve enduring success in poetry, though it is the fashion of the literary criticism of the day to depreciate and despise art in composition. So much flattery has been heaped on some of the young poets who have lately appeared, that we fear they will give little heed to the warnings and counsels of a severer taste. Time will test the real worth of works now inordinately praised. Of the poetry that passes under our review very small is the proportion that will live among our standard literature, and this not from want of genius and feeling, but of art and labour in composition. One of the best pieces in Mr. Massey's book is entitled *Down in Australia*.

"Quaff a cup, and send a cheer up for the Old Land!
We have heard the Reapers shout,
For the Harvest going out,
With the smoke of battle closing round the bold Land:
And our message shall be hur'd
Up the ringing sides o' the world,—
There are true hearts beating for you in the Gold Land."
"We are with you in your battles, brave and bold Land!
For the old ancestral tree
Striketh root beneath the sea,
And it beareth fruit of Freedom in the Gold Land!
We shall come, too, if you call,
We shall fight on if you fall;
Cromwell's land must never be a bought and sold Land."
"O the standard of the Lord wavs o'er the Old Land!
For the waiting world holds breath
While she treads the den of Death,
With the sleeve of Peace stript up from her bare, bold hand:
And her ruddy rose will bloom
On the bosom and the tomb
Of her many heroes fallen for the Old Land."
"O, a terror to the Tyrant is the Old Land!
He remembers how she stood
With her raiment roll'd in blood,
When the tide of battle burst upon the bold Land;
And he looks with darken'd face,
For he knows the hero-race
Sweep the Harp of Freedom—draw her Sword with bold hand.

"Let thy glorious voice be heard, thou great and bold Land!

Speak the one victorious word,
And fair Freedom's wandered Bird
Shall wing back with leaf of promise from the Old Land!
And the people shall come out
From their slavery, with a shout
For the new world greening in the Future's Gold Land."
"When the smoke of battle rises from the Old Land,
You shall see the tyrant down,
You shall see the ransom'd crown
On the brow of prison'd peoples, freed with bold hand!
She shall thresh her foes like corn;
They shall eat the bread of scorn,
And we'll sing her song of Triumph in the Gold Land."
"Quaff a cup, and send a cheer up for the Old Land!
We have heard the Reapers shout,
For the Harvest going out,
Seen the smoke of battle closing round the bold Land:
And our message shall be hur'd
Up the ringing sides o' the world,—
There are true hearts beating for you in the Gold Land."

Some of the pieces in this collection have already appeared in the fourth edition of Mr. Massey's 'Ballad of Babe Christabel,' and other poems. The others are suggested by more recent incidents of the war, such as the battle of Inkerman. The political spirit of the pieces on the Aberdeen ministry and the Austrian alliance will meet with thorough sympathy from most readers.

The Pathology of Drunkenness. By Charles Wilson, M.D. A. and C. Black.

ADDRESSED both to professional men and general readers, this work presents a view of the operation of ardent spirits in the production of disease, and the effects of their use otherwise upon the human constitution. The moral and social aspects of the subject are not overlooked, and the philanthropist and political economist will find in Dr. Wilson's book materials of useful study, as well as the physiologist and physician. Terrible pictures are drawn, from the author's own observation and research, of the evil results of intemperance, both in respect to physical disease and moral degradation. The ascertained facts on the subject of spontaneous combustion which Mr. Dickens's tale brought into recent notoriety, are presented in the description of occasional effects of drunkenness. More important and more practical is that part of the work relating to the connexion of intemperance with questions of moral responsibility and of medical jurisprudence, a subject deserving fuller investigation, which Dr. Wilson seems capable of usefully undertaking.

A Guide to the Parish Church. By the Rev. Harvey Goodwin, M.A. Cambridge: Deighton, Bell, and Co.

How to worship aright in the house of God, so far as human directions can assist, this little manual proposes to teach. The author says that in our day there are 'guide-books' innumerable, and that a guide to public worship may be found useful. If it were likely to lead to any increase of the formalism always too prone to take the place of true religion, the design of the book would be pernicious, but from the spirit in which it is prepared it will be found a safe and profitable manual. The author warns earnestly against the substitution of a devotion of posture and form for a devotion of heart, but at the same time considers that due regard to established and prescribed rules is necessary for the sake of decency, order, and edification. With this feeling he treats of the attendance on public worship, and the duties of worshippers according to the ritual of the Anglican church.

Missions in South India. Visited and Described by Joseph Mullens, Missionary at Calcutta. Dalton.

OF the missionary statistics of the southern parts of India this volume contains details, important as historical records, and useful for practical reference. While the number of Christian converts is small compared with the multitudes who remain in heathenism, the results of missionary enterprise are everywhere beginning to appear. Mr. Mullens says that in his long tour he found "the temples everywhere falling into decay. Marks of neglect are profusely stamped upon every one of them; the bats, in countless numbers, already possess them. In all south India the only temple I saw

kept really clean and in good repair, was the temple in the fort of Tanjore, where a wealthy Hindu rajah rules." The influence of Christianity on the general aspect of Indian life and institutions is increasing. The bonds of caste, of reverence for the sacred books, and veneration for the heathen priesthood, are more loosely felt; attachment to idolatrous worship is less universal, and the cruel rites connected with the native religions are checked. It is not in the great towns, and where Europeans most are congregated, that a fair estimate can be made of the work of evangelization now carrying on. Mr. Mullens gives interesting descriptions of the various mission stations in Madras, with notices of the labours, literary and educational, as well as more directly evangelistic, of the missionaries from England and other countries.

Heroines of Charity. With a Preface by Aubrey de Vere, Esq. Burns and Lambert.

In the practical departments of Christian charity there are many things, both in regard to personal effort and combined organization, which Protestants have yet to learn from the Church of Rome. In this little volume are recited the lives and works of some who have been distinguished in the annals of active benevolence to the sick, the poor, or the afflicted. Much also, doubtless, appears of a more questionable character, in the shape of doctrines and practices not enjoined by the word of God, but resting only on human authority. The well-informed reader will "prove all things, and hold fast that which is good," in this record of Heroines of Charity.

SUMMARY.

In the second edition of *Blanche de Bourbon*, by W. H. Jones (Hookham and Sons), the author has carefully revised and improved the poem, which is an historical romance in the style of Sir Walter Scott's poetry. The story of Blanche, Queen of Castile, is one of much interest, and is narrated with spirit and illustrated with skill in Mr. Jones's poem. Several pieces are appended to this edition, and among them one on the fertile theme of the battle of the Almas.

A series of cleverly written tales appears under the title of *A Dozen Pairs of Wedding Gloves* (James Blackwood). The book is inscribed to Albert Smith, and we can pay the author the compliment of saying that some of the sketches might pass for the works of his clever and versatile friend.

In a little volume of poetical sketches, *Wild Flowers and Green Leaves* (Saunders and Otley), there is much of the spirit of true poetry, but without corresponding skill in composition. Some of the descriptions of rural scenery are very pleasing, but no attempt is made at sustained harmony of verse or regularity of metre.

A little volume of *Self-proving Examples in the First Four Rules of Arithmetic*, by Alexander J. Ellis, B.A. (Longman and Co.), exhibits ingeniously the principles on which examples may be set and results verified, both for self-practice and for school use. The study of Mr. Ellis's plan will give much acquaintance with properties of numbers, and enable the student to acquire great readiness and intelligence in the art of computation.

We are much pleased with the first number of a new penny periodical, with illustrations, *The British Workman, and Friend of the Sons of Toil* (Partridge and Oakley), which contains useful advice and profitable entertainment for the working classes, among whom it deserves to have a wide circulation.

In an allegory, *The Good Fight* (J. H. Parker), advantage is taken of the interest felt in operations of war to apply scriptural phrases and allusions to such subjects for religious improvement.

Mr. Francis has published a third edition of his *Chronicles and Characters of the Stock Exchange* (Longman and Co.), with the following somewhat incoherent preface:—"The present Chancellor's mode of paying the expenses of war may be advantageously contrasted with the plans of Mr. Pitt and other ministers, during previous contests. Various

notes, historical and literary, have been added since the first edition, and the writer thanks the press and the public for the favour with which they have received his 'Chronicles and Characters of the Stock Exchange.' It is certainly an amusing volume, and to readers beyond Temple-bar also instructive.

In Bohn's Standard Library a new edition appears, complete in two volumes, of the *Life of Richard Cœur de Lion*, by G. P. R. James, Esq. (H. G. Bohn), a book of industrious research, and agreeable in its style.

Notes of *Summer Tours in Central Europe*, 1853-4, by John Barrow, Esq. (Dalton), give the records of the author's travelling experiences and observations in Bavaria, Austria, Tyrol, North Italy, and Piedmont. Mr. Barrow has already published several useful books of travel, one of them as a number in the Traveller's Library (Longman and Co.), under the title of 'Tour on the Continent, by Rail and Road.' As giving recent and authentic notices of the parts visited, these little volumes may be found useful companions to larger guide-books.

A second edition is published of a *Complete Course of Instruction in the French Language*, by André Sears, Professor of French literature in the Collegiate Institution, Liverpool (Nutt). Mr. Sears's book has one obvious advantage, in addition to its intrinsic merits—to wit, that the courses of instruction in grammar, in reading and translation, and in conversation, are all contained within the compass of a reasonably-sized volume.

A new work, of considerable interest at this time, has been commenced, by Count Valerian Krasinski, *Poland, its History, Constitution, Literature, Manners, Customs, &c.* (Chapman and Hall). It is to be issued in monthly parts, the number to be probably six. Part first brings the history down to the early part of the sixteenth century. A map of Poland, as it was in its best time, is prefixed.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Baird's (J. S.) Latin Vocabulary, 12mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
 Bell's Poets, Vol. 14; Thomson, Vol. 1, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Bohn's British Classics; Burke's Works, Vol. 2, p. 8vo, 3s. 6d.
 Classical Library; Suetonius, post 8vo, cloth, 6s.
 Ecclesiastical Lib.; Works of Philo Judeus, Vol. 3, 6s.
 Illustrated Library; Robinson Crusoe, p. 8vo, cl., 5s.
 Standard Library; Hunt's Physics, post 8vo, cl., 5s.
 Conde's Arabs, Vol. 2, 3s. 6d.
 Bonar's Night of Weeping, 18mo, cloth, 2s.
 Buds of Hope, post 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Bunn's (Rev. H.) Vampire of Christendom, 12mo, cl., 3s. 6d.
 Burke's Peerage, 1855, royal 8vo, cloth, £1 18s.
 Carlen's Marie Louise, boards, 2s.
 Chapman's (W.) Every Day French Talk, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Christian Retirement, 17th edition, 12mo, cloth, 6s.
 Cousins (The), fcap. 8vo, cloth, 6s.
 Darby's (E.) Lays of Love, &c., 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.
 Family Feud, 12mo, boards, 2s.
 Ferguson's (J.) Attic Greek Exercises, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Fishbourne's (Capt.) Impressions of China, cr. 8vo, cloth, 6s.
 Francis's (J.) Stock Exchange, 8vo, cloth, new edit., 10s. 6d.
 Gibbon's Rome, 8vo, cloth, Vol. 7, (Murray's), 7s. 6d.
 Gore's (Mrs.) Mamma, 3 vols., post 8vo, cloth, £1 11s. 6d.
 Gosse's (E.) Abraham, 18mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Grace All-Sufficient, fcap. 8vo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Hall's (Mrs.) Whitefoot, 12mo, boards, 2s.
 Henderson's (Capt.) New South Wales, 2 vols., new ed., £1 1s.
 Hughes's (R.) Reading Lessons, 1st series, 12mo, bds., 3s. 6d.
 Ida May, illustrated, fcap. 8vo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Jesse's Court of England, post 8vo, cloth, Vol. 2, 6s.
 Language of the Walls, crown 8vo, cloth, 5s.
 Lardner's (D.) Electric Telegraph, 12mo, cloth, 2s.
 Le Brethon's Guide to French, new ed., 10s. 6d., Key, 7s.
 Mackenzie's (Rev. W. B.) Bible Teaching, post 8vo, cl., 7s.
 Marryat's (F.) Mountains and Moebills, 8vo, illust., £1 1s.
 Ministering Children, 2nd edition, fcap. 8vo, cloth, 5s.
 Moon's Tales and Sketches, 18mo, cloth, reduced, 2s.
 Musgrave's (G. M.) Rambles through Normandy, 8vo, 10s. 6d.
 Phillips's (J.) Rivers of Yorkshire, 2nd edit., 8vo, cloth, 15s.
 Rogers's (H.) Essays, 8vo, cloth, Vol. 3, 10s. 6d.
 Sears's (A.) Complete Course of French, 12mo, cloth, 5s.
 Shell's (R. L.) Sketches, 2 vols., post 8vo, cloth, £1 1s.
 Simson's (S. A.) Lexicon French Grammar, 12mo, boards, 5s.
 Something to Laugh at, small 4to, boards, 2s. 6d.
 Taylor's (Rev. W. F.) Seven Churches, 12mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
 — (B.) Lands of the Saracen, post 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.
 Toussaint de l'Ouvrerie, boards, 2s.
 Trench on the Parables, 6th edition, 8vo, boards, 12s.
 True Tales for Spare Hours, 18mo, cloth, new edition, 1s. 6d.
 Whately's (Mrs.) Boring Bee, fcap. 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Wylie's (A.) Duty of Prayer, 12mo, cloth, 2nd edition, 5s.
 Wilson's (W.) Bryologia Britannica, 8vo, cloth, £2 2s.
 Wratlaw's (A. H.) Greek Exercises, part 1, fcap., cloth, 3s.

THE LATE PROFESSOR EDWARD FORBES.

[From 'Blackwood's Magazine.']

THOU Child of Genius! None who saw
 The beauty of thy kindly face,
 Or watched those wondrous fingers draw
 Unending forms of life and grace,
 Or heard thine earnest utterance trace
 The links of some majestic law,
 But felt that thou by God wert sent
 Amongst us for our betterment.

And yet he called thee in thy prime,
 Summoned thee in the very hour
 When unto us it seemed that Time
 Had ripened every manly power:
 And thou, who hadst through sun and shower,
 On many a shore, in many a clime,
 Gathered from ocean, earth, and sky,
 Thy hidden truths, wert called to die.

We went about in blank dismay,
 We murmured at God's sovereign will;
 We asked why thou wert taken away,
 Whose place no one of us could fill:
 Our throbbing hearts would not be still;
 Our bitter tears we could not stay:
 We asked, but could no answer find;
 And strove in vain to be resigned.

When lo! from out the Silent Land,
 Our faithless murmurs to rebuke,
 In answer to our vain demand
 Thy solemn Spirit seemed to look;
 And pointing to a shining book,
 That opened in thy shadowy band,
 Bade us regard those words which light
 Not of this world, made clear and bright:—

"If, as on earth I learned full well,
 Thou canst not tell the reason why
 The lowliest moss or smallest shell
 Is called to live, or called to die,
 Till thou with searching, patient eye,
 Through ages more than man can tell,
 Hast traced its history back in Time,
 And over Space from clime to clime;

"If all the shells the tempest send,
 As I have ever loved to teach;
 And all the creeping things that wend
 Their way along the sandy beach,
 Have pedigrees that backward reach,
 Till in forgotten Time they end;
 And may as tribes for ages more,
 As if immortal, strew the shore;

"If all its Present, all its Past,
 And all its Future thou canst see,
 Must be deciphered, ere at last
 Thou, even in part, canst hope to be
 Able to solve the mystery
 Why one sea-worm to death hath passed,
 How must it be, when God doth call
 Him whom He placed above them all?"

Ah, yes! we must in patience wait,
 Thou dearly loved, departed friend!
 Till we have followed through the gate,
 Where Life in Time doth end;
 And Present, Past, and Future lend
 Their light to solve thy fate;
 When all the ages that shall be
 Have flowed into the Timeless Sea.

GEORGE WILSON.

PERIOD OF HUMAN LIFE.

M. FLOURENS, the distinguished French physiologist, and Perpetual Secretary of the Paris Academy of Sciences, has just published a book, in which he announces that the normal period of the life of man is *one hundred years*. The grounds on which he comes to this new philosophic conclusion may be briefly stated. It is, we believe, a fact in natural history that the length of each animal's life is in exact proportion to the period he is in growing. Buffon was aware of this truth, and his observations led him to conclude that the life in different species of animals is six or seven times as long as the period of growth. M. Florens, from his own obser-

vations and those of his predecessors, is of opinion that it may be more safely taken at five times. When Buffon wrote, the precise period at which animals leave off growing, or to speak more correctly, the precise circumstance which indicates that the growth has ceased, was not known. M. Flourens has ascertained that period, and thereon lies his present theory: "It consists," says he, "in the union of the bones to their epiphyses. As long as the bones are not united to their epiphyses the animal grows; as soon as the bones are united to their epiphyses the animal ceases to grow." Now, in man, the union of the bones and the epiphyses takes place, according to M. Flourens, at the age of twenty; and consequently he proclaims that the natural duration of life is five times twenty years. "It is now fifteen years ago," he says, "since I commenced researches into the physiological law of the duration of life, both in man and in some of our domestic animals, and I have arrived at the result that the normal duration of man's life is one century. Yes, a century's life is what Providence meant to give us." Applied to domestic animals M. Flourens' theory has, he tells us, been proved correct. "The union of the bones with the epiphyses," he says, "takes place in the camel at eight years of age, and he lives forty years; in the horse at five years, and he lives twenty-five years; in the ox at four years, and he lives from fifteen to twenty years; in the dog at two years, and he lives from ten to twelve years; and in the lion at four years, and he lives twenty." As a necessary consequence of the prolongation of life to which M. Flourens assures man he is entitled, he modifies very considerably his different ages. "I prolong the duration of infancy," he says, "up to ten years, because it is from nine to ten that the second dentition is terminated. I prolong adolescence up to twenty years, because it is at that age that the development of the bones ceases, and consequently the increase of the body in length. I prolong youth up to the age of forty, because it is only at that age that the increase of the body in bulk terminates. After forty the body does not grow, properly speaking; the augmentation of its volume, which then takes place, is not a veritable organic development, but a simple accumulation of fat. After the growth, or more exactly speaking, the development in length and bulk has terminated, man enters into what I call the period of invigoration, that is—when all our parts become more complete and firmer, our functions more assured, and the whole organism more perfect. This period lasts to sixty-five or seventy years; and then begins old age, which lasts for thirty years." But though M. Flourens thus lengthens man's days, he warns him, more than once, that the prolongation of them can only be obtained on one rigorous condition, "that of good conduct, of existence always occupied, of labour, of study, of moderation, of sobriety in all things." To those who may be disposed to ask, why it is, that of men destined to live a hundred years so few do so, M. Flourens answers triumphantly—"With our manners, our passions, our torments man does not die, he kills himself!" and he speaks at great length of Cornaro, of Lessius, and mentions Parr and others, to show that, by prudence and, above all, *sobriety*, life can easily be extended to a century or more. Such is an outline of M. Flourens' singular argument, and knowing the author's scientific eminence, we doubt not it will be received with respect.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

At a meeting, on Tuesday, of the Forbes Memorial Committee, all the requisite preliminary arrangements were concluded for the execution of a Bust and Medal of the lamented Professor, and for the institution of a Prize of Books, to be awarded annually, together with a Bronze copy of the Medal, to the most distinguished student of the class of Natural History in the Government School of Mines. So far the Committee have done well; but the friends of this distinguished philosophic naturalist will not be entirely satisfied until a memorial of his genial face and characteristic

person is suspended in the Gallery of Portraits of the Royal Society. Sir John Watson Gordon is, we understand, anxious to collect materials for a Portrait of the late Professor, and if it is intended that Edinburgh should possess one, a duplicate might be painted for London. But in the absence of such an arrangement we might point to Mr. T. H. Maguire, as an artist competent to produce a good painting and a good likeness. On two different occasions did the late Professor give him several sittings for his portrait in lithography, and the execution of a third portrait from a daguerreotype by Claudet has made him yet more familiar with his features. During the short time that the Subscription List has been open, the Fund has reached 316*l.*, but out of the seven hundred members composing the Royal Society not fifty have subscribed as yet, and of more than a thousand composing the Geological and Linnean Societies, (not members of the Royal,) it may also be remarked that not fifty have as yet subscribed. We trust that the Committee will not end their labours with the above memorial, but that a portrait will yet be forthcoming.

The publication of the opinion of the late admiral of the fleet, Sir George Cockburn, as to the Board of Admiralty, is an additional illustration of the bad system of public administration. The report given of the intricacy and unmanageableness of this department is scarcely credible to those who have not attended to the subject. The very greatness of England's naval power has prevented public attention being given to the abuses of the Admiralty system. The natural feeling has been that things cannot be very far wrong when so many great victories have been won, and 'Britannia still rules the waves.' But it should be remembered that these glories have been gained in spite of, and not in consequence, of the system; and in great emergencies the usual official routine has been broken. Nelson was at one time about to retire from the service in despair of getting employment, against the rules of seniority, and we may call to mind, to the honour of Lord Barham, that when he was at the head of the Admiralty, he sent the Navy List to Nelson, and desired him to name his own ships and captains, and with these was gained the victory of Trafalgar.

Although we had resolved not to trouble our readers again with the squabbles of the Archaeological Association, for Mr. Pettigrew's status as an antiquary is not, after all, such as to make the subject a matter of much importance; yet we cannot withhold a few lines from Mr. C. Roach Smith, in defence of two most respectable ex-members, whom the Treasurer has, amongst others, thought fit to slander.

"5, Liverpool St., City, February 1st.

"Sir.—A friend has just placed before me the pamphlet, by Mr. Pettigrew, recently noticed in the 'Literary Gazette.' Having long since felt it my duty to retire from an Association which had failed in accomplishing the main objects for which it was founded, I should not, for the sake of contradicting an untrue and impertinent statement relating to myself, have troubled you with any remarks on this pamphlet. But I consider it due to two of the most unselfish, and in every respect most worthy members of the old Association, (Mr. Fairholt and Mr. Waller), to declare that the paragraphs in the said pamphlet, referring to professional claims made by those gentlemen on the Association, are calculated to mislead those who are not acquainted with the history of the British Archaeological Association. Mr. Fairholt did not ask for what had been owing him for some years, knowing there were no funds; and Mr. Waller was incapable of making excessive charges; and he does not believe the Council ever thought them excessive. These gentlemen were two of the greatest benefactors the Association ever had: both were constantly giving gratuitously valuable services. During the first few years of its existence the official work was exceedingly laborious and incessant. It fell to my lot often to make excursions to distant parts of the country. On such, and on all other occasions, I ever found Mr. Fairholt a zealous and generous colleague; and he always declined making a charge for travelling expenses, and other services which, if paid for as they usually are, would perhaps have trebled his most moderate account for plates and woodcuts; and, moreover, he ever good-naturedly gave the 'Journal' the benefit of his experienced pen, and was always among the foremost in partaking the labours of the tiring and expensive Congresses. Such a person would not be likely to press for money knowing there was none.

"The same of Mr. Waller. Fancy the Members of the Association consenting to receive a statement that their Council thought the charges excessive of an eminent artist and antiquary, who, on one occasion alone, at his own ex-

pense, stayed with a brother artist at Winchester for a fortnight or more, to copy the cathedral wall paintings, to engrave them, and to give the plates, *free of all costs*, to the Association! In fact, Messrs. Fairholt and Waller were real, and not nominal patrons of the Association; and they left it because they believed it inconsistent with their notions of honour and duty to remain. C. ROACH SMITH.

The proposal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the newspaper stamp, of which notice was given in the House of Commons this week, is such as ought to satisfy all reasonable advocates of the removal of what are called taxes on knowledge. The plan is, that newspapers and any printed publication, not exceeding four ounces in weight, shall pass through the post-office, either with an impressed stamp or with the ordinary postage stamp. In the case of an impressed stamp being used there will be the privilege of retransmission through the post-office, for seven days after date of publication, but the common adhesive stamp entitles to only one transmission. Portions of the impression of any newspaper may be stamped and the remainder unstamped. This is a great change on the existing system, but we reserve any remarks till the proposal is brought before Parliament.

The institution of a new order of military merit, separate from any of the existing orders of honorary distinction, is a step that will give satisfaction to the country as well as to the army. The details of the proposed scheme are not arranged, but one important point is settled in the way which commends itself as the most fitting—that the adjudication of the cross of military merit, in every rank of the army, will be awarded on the judgment of a jury of the soldiers or officers' peers, the decision to be confirmed at home.

The principle of carrying instruction to the doors of the people is about to receive a useful development in the formation of a circulating museum of ornamental art. This is the first attempt to extend the benefits of the central institution to the provinces. The museum, as it is intended to be taken through the country, may be seen at Gore House until next Thursday. It will be exhibited at the various local schools of art in connexion with the central school in London. The plan is a good one, and will doubtless prove of advantage in the promotion of education in taste and art.

A Society has been formed in France for the Defence of Literary and Artistic Copyright. It is stated, in the prospectus of this association, that, in spite of the Anglo-French convention, German and Belgian counterfeits of new French publications are sent from Leipzig and from Brussels to England, and sold in London. The committee warn English booksellers against selling such books, and are prepared to take steps to stop their sale. We doubt whether this evil exists to the extent supposed by the French Defence Society, but if it does we can only hope that their exertions may be successful in stopping an infraction of the international treaty, which the French and English desire honourably to maintain. Attention has also lately been called to the subject of English copyright in Australia, where the booksellers importing from England complain of being undersold by cheaper American reprints. For this we fear there is no practical relief, except in the event of a literary treaty with America, the prospect of which is as distant as ever.

A sad event has happened in the literary world of Paris—Gerard de Nerval, one of the ablest and most charming *light-littérateurs* of the day, committed suicide a few days back. It is supposed that he destroyed himself partly from distress, and partly from mental excitement. He was subject, it appears, to hallucinations, or rather to the "fine frenzies" of the poet. He was a singular character; simple as a child in money matters, he scarcely ever had a sixpence, though his earnings were not inconsiderable; he had no fixed residence, and haunted *cafés*, and he often started off on journeys to the East or to Germany, without money enough for a week, trusting to the chapter of accidents to arrive at his destination and return. His literary reputation was very great in his own country, but was greater amongst literary men than amongst the public. In Germany he was

very highly esteemed: indeed the style of his writings was more German than French. His works are numerous, the principal being a translation of *Faust*, a 'Voyage in the East,' and a collection of charming stories, called 'Les Nuits du Rhin-mann.'

From Cambridge we learn that the Rev. Theodore Preston, Fellow of Trinity College, has been appointed Lord Almoner's Professor of Arabic, in the room of the Rev. Dr. Robinson, Master of the Temple, who has resigned office. The Prince Chancellor having offered a gold medal for the encouragement of English poetry, the prize will this year be given for the best poem on the war in the Crimea. Candidates must send in their contributions, which must not exceed 200 lines in length, by the 31st of March.

The Society of Arts will shortly open their Seventh Annual Exhibition of Inventions. These small exhibitions, or collections rather, of the inventions of the past twelve months, originated in a desire to make apparent the directions in which progress was taking place. Inventors and others had long felt the necessity of some museum to which they could refer when contemplating or requiring some improvement in mechanism, or some new article of manufacture. The Society of Arts have stepped in to fill the gap, till some department of the Government should be charged with the establishment of a permanent museum, similar in its aim to that attached to the United States Patent Office at Washington.

During the last few days, portions of two of eight fine stained-glass windows have been placed in Ely Cathedral, and the whole are expected to be in their places in June. They will represent the principal occurrences in the life of our Lord, and Mr. Wailes of Newcastle has been entrusted with their execution. An elaborately carved new reredos is nearly completed, and several exterior repairs, rendered necessary by the lapse of time, have also been carried out in the fine old building.

It is announced that Mr. Charles Kean has taken a renewed lease of the Princess's theatre for ten years, a proof that his enterprising management has met with due popular support. Some of the exertions of Mr. Kean as manager, which merit highest praise on dramatic and literary grounds, have not been the most successful as financial speculations. Allowance ought to be made for this, when critical remarks are offered on performances of a comparatively inferior kind. As a manager Mr. Kean has to consult popular taste, while exercising his own artistic judgment, too severe an obedience to which must, in these days, involve heavy personal loss. Let those who are ready to complain of the degradation of the drama give all the support they can to any attempts made by Mr. Kean or other managers to introduce and retain classical and artistic pieces on the stage. At Sadler's Wells Mr. Phelps continues to attract numerous and appreciating audiences, at his performance of "the legitimate drama." The *Winter's Tale* has been this week the piece at Sadler's Wells. At the Haymarket Miss Cushman has reappeared in her character of *Romeo*, one of the most effective of all her representations. A new actress, Miss Swanborough, made a creditable *début* on this occasion, as *Juliet*.

M. Jullien's second series of concerts was brought to a close on Wednesday evening after a success as complete as attended the former series at Drury Lane. The programme contained a selection of some of the best and most popular pieces of the season, including Mozart's *Zauberflöt*, the allegretto from Beethoven's Eighth Symphony, and the scherzo from Mendelssohn's music to the *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Among the miscellaneous popular music, the Allied Armies and the American Quadrilles, the Valse d'Adieu, Moldavian Schottische, and the Sledge Polka, were given, which are the most successful of M. Jullien's own recent compositions. The concert concluded with a new galop, *Vive l'Empereur*. Having noticed the chief incidents of these concerts as they occurred, we have only to express a hope of next season finding M. Jullien at the head of as effective a band, and with as

good music, both classical and popular, as has delighted the crowded audiences at Drury Lane and Covent Garden during the past months. A *Bal Masqué* was given last night, on a scale before unattempted, and with the full power of M. Jullien's band in the orchestra.

Paris letters record the production at the Théâtre Lyrique of the *Freischütz* under the title of *Robin des Bois*; but it is stated to be sadly mutilated, and to be but indifferently executed. The same letters mention the first representation of a huge melodrama of the good old orthodox school, at the Théâtre de la Gaité; it is called the *Masque de Poix*. It is based on a famous murder committed in France some years ago, by means of a pitch plaster, but out of regard to our friends the Russians, the scene is transferred to Russia, and the criminal and his accomplices are represented as Russians. By the way, it seems that French dramatists have received the *mot d'ordre* to make, as far as possible, all their villains Russians. Half a century ago, the stupendous crimes which are nightly done in theatres used to be imposed on the unfortunate English. But so wags the world. A M. Antier is named as the author of the new play; he was, it is said, of great melodramatic celebrity some thirty years ago; but the real author is understood to be no less a personage than M. Mocquard, private secretary to the Emperor.

The Opera House at Brussels has been completely destroyed by fire, together with all the dresses, decorations, and *matériel*. A new theatre is to be built without delay; and in the meantime operatic performances are to be given in another house.

At the Court Theatre at Vienna, in the half-year ending the 31st December, there were 118 representations of operas. Amongst them were 22 of Meyerbeer, 19 of Auber, and 12 of Mozart.

Mr. MacFarren, the composer, has been elected a member of the Royal Musical Society of the Netherlands.

Gluck's *Iphigenia in Taurica* has been brought out at the Theatre Royal at Berlin.

Father Gavazzi is making a tour in the Eastern Counties. He is to give a lecture at Exeter Hall next week on the Immaculate Conception.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL.—Jan. 3rd.—Mr. Hamilton, President, in the chair. Dr. A. Halley was elected a Fellow. The following communications were read:—1. 'On a Modern Submerged Forest at Fort Lawrence, Nova Scotia, illustrative of the Conditions under which some of the Coal-bearing Strata in the neighbouring Coast at the Joggins were formed in Ancient Times.' By J. W. Dawson, Esq., F.G.S. 2. 'On some additional new small Reptilian Remains, from the Purbeck Strata of Durdleston Bay; and on the Fossil Remains of a large Cuttlefish, from the Kimmeridge Clay, collected by Mr. W. R. Brodie.' By Prof. Owen, F.G.S. 3. 'On the Tertiary Formations of the North of Germany, with special reference to those of Hesse-Cassel and its neighbourhood.' By W. Hamilton, Esq., President. The author commenced his remarks by correcting an error into which he had been led in his former communication on the Mayence Basin, respecting the age of the Tertiary sands of Magdeburg and Westergeln. He had there stated, apparently on the authority of Dr. Sandberger, that these last-mentioned beds belonged to a much newer period than the 'Marine Sands' of Weinheim in the Mayence Basin; whereas, not only has Dr. Sandberger described them as of the same age, but there is a probability of their being still older. The principal sections near Hesse-Cassel show a marine formation of no very great thickness, sometimes consisting of blue clay, and at others of yellow sand overlying extensive beds of brown coal. This, again, rests on blue clay, beneath which are sometimes found thin beds of sandstone with plant-impressions, interstratified with other beds of clay, the whole resting on Muschelkalk and Bunter-sandstein. The marine sands of Westergeln, near Magdeburg, are also found above the

brown coal; whereas in the Mayence Basin, the marine sands of Weinheim constitute the lowest member of the whole tertiary series there, and are themselves overlaid by clays and brown coal. The author then proceeded to consider the relative age of these deposits; and, after alluding to what he considers the erroneous opinion of Philipp, who regarded the Hesse-Cassel beds as being of the same age as the Subapennine formation, endeavoured to show the probability that, although the Westergeln sands may be somewhat older, they all belong to one general period, equivalent or nearly so to the Middle Limburg beds of Belgium; and that they mark the time when a communication must have existed between the Northern Ocean of Germany and the Mayence Basin, and between the latter and the great Southern or Alpine Ocean, in which the flysch and earlier molasse were deposited. Mr. Hamilton also alluded to the extensive basaltic outbursts which occur so abundantly throughout the whole country between Frankfurt and Hesse-Cassel; and he offered an explanation of the phenomenon observed on several occasions, where the stratified beds of brown coal, clay, &c., are seen towards and partly underneath the basaltic masses which form the cappings of the plateaux. When the stratified beds had been raised by subterranean pressure into undulating masses, on a large scale, previously to the basaltic outbursts, the igneous matter found an easier escape through the fissures of *synclinal*, rather than of the *anticlinal* portions, inasmuch as the fissures in the *synclinal*s widened downwards, while those in the other portions were naturally wider in the upper beds. The author concluded by showing that the brown coal beds in this part of Germany belonged to at least three, if not four, distinct periods.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—Jan. 1st.—Edward Newman, Esq., F.L.S., President, in the chair. Mr. Douglas exhibited a living specimen of one of the *Elateridae*, *Cratonychus castanipes*, Payk., a species not hitherto recorded as British, which he lately found in the rotten wood of an old oak tree. Mr. Stevens exhibited two rare Indian beetles, both from the same collection, *Jumos Ruckert*, and *Dicranoccephala Wallickii*. The President exhibited a specimen of silken felt procured by confining caterpillars of *Saturnia pavonia-media* in receptacles which presented no points to which they could affix their cocoons, and thus they spread their silk in a layer on the smooth surface. Herr Pretsch had given him this information, and also told him a series of very interesting experiments with these larvae was in progress at Vienna, promising complete success. The President read a note on *Holobia impressa*, tending to show that the species so called, taken in Scotland, was distinct from *H. nivalis*, with which it had recently been associated, but rather mentioning it as a subject for investigation than insisting upon the value of the differential characters pointed out. Mr. Downie exhibited a beehive containing, as he explained, several important improvements—in having a movable floor for cleaning operations, a series of ventilators which could be opened or closed as occasion required, and an easy method of feeding the bees. The following papers were read:—'Notes on the Economy of various Insects,' by John Curtis, Esq., F.L.S.; 'On the British Species of the Genus *Stenus*,' by G. R. Waterhouse, Esq., and E. W. Janson, Esq.; and 'Descriptions of some Brazilian Ants,' by F. Smith, Esq., with notes on their economy, by Mr. H. W. Bates. Referring to the habits of one of the ants mentioned in the last paper, Mr. Brayley said that the vast trains of ants engaged in carrying the mutilated bodies of various insects might illustrate the accumulations of insect remains sometimes found in the secondary and tertiary formations, for if these trains had been suddenly covered up, the stratum in which they were imbedded would exhibit in aftertime a similar appearance to the deposits to which he had alluded. Mr. Saunders said many circumstances of a local or accidental nature at times caused great quan-

titles of insects to be congregated together; he remembered just now the vast numbers of *Galeruca tanacetii* seen a few years since on the Norfolk coast.

* NUMISMATIC.—*Jan. 25th.*—C. R. Smith, Esq., in the chair. Mr. Evans exhibited a third brass coin of Constantine the Great, bearing a Cufic inscription, which has been stamped across the face of it. Mr. Roach Smith exhibited a Denarius of Domitia, which is probably unique. The type is, on the reverse, a temple with no inscription. Mr. J. G. Pfister read a paper on an unedited and unique silver coin (Denarius) of Odoacer, king of Italy, A.D. 476—493, which was struck at Ravenna. The coin was exhibited. At the conclusion of his paper, Mr. Pfister observed that this remarkable coin of Odoacer may be properly regarded as the first in the series of Medieval coins. Odoacer, having put to death Orestes, and having taken the Emperor Romulus Augustus prisoner, really terminated the Empire of the West A.D. 476, and from this event, the period usually called the Middle Ages properly begins. Mr. Vaux read a paper communicated by Dr. Bell, giving an interesting account of the discovery, near Lengerich, of a considerable number of Roman gold and silver imperial coins, together with some fibulae, rings, and armlets, probably of early German workmanship.

ANTIQUARIES.—*Jan. 18th.*—J. P. Collier, Esq., V.P., in the chair. Henry Norman, Esq., was elected Fellow. The Rev. Edward Trollope exhibited a bronze ampulla, found recently in the parish of Scredington, near Sleaford, Lincolnshire; and a knife-handle, carved with the figures of Faith, Hope, and Justice, found in the ruins of Grimsby Abbey, Lincolnshire. The Rev. Thomas Hugo exhibited a fragment of a large iron spur, found in the Fleet ditch, London. Mr. J. Martin exhibited a dagger, found in Westwood, near Thornborough. Mr. Wylie, in a letter to the Secretary, communicated Remarks 'On the Angon of the Franks, described by Agathias, and the Filum of Vegetius,' accompanied by the exhibition of a dart-head, of trilobate form, found at Rheims, and presented to Mr. Wylie by M. Duguenel, of that city.

SYRO-EGYPTIAN.—*Dec. 12th.*—Dr. Lee in the chair. The chairman made some remarks upon a paper by Mr. Wedgwood, being 'Traces of an Egyptian Origin in the Alphabets of Greece and Rome.' Dr. Jolowicz read a translation of the so-called 'First Epistle of Baruch' from the Syriac. This is an addition to the so-called pseudo epigraphic or apocryphal books of the Old Testament, and is admitted in the Syrian original and the Parisian and old London polyglots.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Monday.**—Entomological, 8 p.m.
—British Architects, 8 p.m.
—Chemical, 8 p.m.
—Royal Institution, 2 p.m.—(General Monthly Meeting.)
- Tuesday.**—Horticultural, 3 p.m.
—Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.—(Observations on the Flow of Water through Pipes and Orifices, by Mr. J. Leslie.)
—Pathological, 8 p.m.
—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Professor Tyndall on Magnetism.)
- Wednesday.**—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.—(Mr. Thomas Dickens, The Commercial consideration of the Silk-worm and its Products.)
—Pharmaceutical, 8 p.m.
- Thursday.**—Royal, 8 p.m.
—Antiquaries.
—Royal Academy, 8 p.m.—(Professor Cockerell on Architecture.)
—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Mr. W. B. Donne on English Literature.)
- Friday.**—Astronomical, 3 p.m.—(Anniversary.)
—Philological, 8 p.m.
—Royal Institution, 8 p.m.—(Professor Owen on the Orang and Chimpanzees, and their Structural Relations to Man.)
- Saturday.**—Medical, 8 p.m.
—Botanical, 4 p.m.
—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Dr. J. H. Gladstone on the Principles of Chemistry.)

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Dresden, 15th January, 1855.

IN speaking in my last letter of the lighting up of trees on Christmas Eve, which is now so prevalent in Germany, I omitted to mention that until very lately it has been considered quite a Protestant custom, and was practised almost exclusively in the northern and more Protestant parts of Germany; indeed I have been informed that it was introduced not more than ten or fifteen years ago into Vienna by a celebrated tragic actor. In the Catholic parts of Germany, especially in the provinces of the Lower Rhine, a representation of the Nativity of Christ is erected, not only in the churches but in the houses of private people. This consists generally of a little wooden cowshed to represent the stall of Bethlehem, with a cradle, in which is placed the figure of a little child, whilst wooden cows, donkeys, &c., stand round; this was called the 'krippe,' or manger, and the common people in that part of the country always designate puppet shows by the name of 'krippchen.' In some families you see the Protestant and Catholic customs combined, and the 'krippe,' with its attendant beasts, reposing under the illuminated branches of the Christmas-tree. In the middle ages the churches in every town and village were brilliantly lighted up on Christmas Eve, and the service began exactly at midnight. The whole scene of the birth of Christ was represented in the church. No one thought of going to bed; people wandered from church to church, and finished the night by visits to each other's houses, and by singing hymns and festive songs. Saint Stephen's day, the 26th of December, is still called in many parts of Germany 'der Pferdstag,' the horse day; and in our own memory it was customary amongst the country people for any one who could get a horse on this day to gallop about and make his 'stefansritt.' In Germany the peasants used only to ride from one village to another, but in Swabia even now they go at a headlong pace over the fields and meadows, which, according to their superstition, keeps off sickness and the influences of witchcraft. In Swabia many of the old superstitions exist most strongly even at the present day; the children place their little plates, dishes, or even shoes, on the window-sill the night before Christmas Eve, and finding them filled the next morning with cakes, nuts, apples, &c., firmly believe that the infant Christ, who traverses the world on a little white horse or a white cock, has brought the longed-for presents to them. Sunshine on New Year's Day, the peasant believes, implies a plentiful supply of fish all the year through, and the state of the weather during the twelve days from Christmas Eve to the 6th of January is supposed to denote that of the twelve months of the coming year. These are called in Swabia the 'zwölf Loostage,' (or twelve prophetic days,) and knowing farmers draw twelve circles on a piece of blank paper for the twelve months, and divide each circle with a cross into four parts, for the four weeks in each month. On the night before Christmas Eve their meteorological observations begin, and are noted down every six hours. Carrots must be eaten on New Year's Day, in order that one's money may not fall short during the year, and molten lead is cast by young maidens into cold water to discover the trade of their future husbands, whose tools are supposed to be visible in the metal after it comes out of the water. New Year's Eve was formerly celebrated in Germany by families and old friends passing the evening together, and relating tales and stories, which were thus handed down from father to son, and by which means much interesting oral tradition has been preserved, which is, however, now being rapidly lost. "Mais nous avons changé tout cela," and, I am sorry to say, almost all that is peculiar and national in the celebration of this evening has been displaced in Dresden by balls, parties, card-playing, and handsome suppers.

I mentioned to you, in one of my former letters, that the Brothers Bassermann, of Mannheim, were about to publish a stereotyped edition of the com-

plete works of Berthold Auerbach. This would certainly in England appear a hazardous speculation, but it seems the enterprising publishers must have been fully aware of the hold Auerbach has on the German public. A third thousand of 'Spinosa,' one of Auerbach's earliest and least interesting romances, has just been issued in this edition. A sketch of Auerbach's life has appeared in the 'Leipzig Illustrated News,' from which we learn that he was born in the Black Forest in 1812, and with eleven brothers and sisters was brought up there until he reached the age of twelve years; he was then sent to Hechingen, to the Talmud school, to study under the rabbis. He soon, however, deserted his theological studies, and betook himself to the University of Tübingen, where he was a great admirer of the celebrated Strauss. He became a member of the "Burschenschaft," (a political society of students founded originally at Jena in 1815, by those collegians who had taken part in the War of Liberation, and one of whom, if I am not mistaken, assassinated Kotzebue.) From Tübingen Auerbach removed to Munich, where he attended the lectures of Schelling; his studies were rather unpleasantly interrupted by his being denounced as a member of a secret political society, and by his condemnation to the mitigated punishment of six weeks' imprisonment. Since that time Auerbach has devoted himself entirely to literature. He applied to more than a dozen publishers before he could find any one to undertake his first work, and now he is certainly one of the, if not the most popular writer in Germany. He has just completed a play, which I hear is likely to come to representation on the Dresden stage, but I have not been enabled as yet to see it in MS. or hear much about it. I must not close this letter without mentioning Madame Jenny Lind Goldschmidt's concert, the first, and, I believe, the only one she gives for the present at Dresden. I need only say that her voice was as good as ever, and that her style seems with each passing year to gain in depth and maturity. The public, amongst which was a great mass of English people, received her enthusiastically; a sufficient proof that they at least did not agree with the vulgar and flippant observations made so unnecessarily on her in the review of Bar-num's work in 'The Times.'

VARIETIES.

Dr. Henry Dewhurst once more.—"I am glad you have exposed that fellow Dewhurst. Rather an amusing circumstance occurred to me some time since in connexion with him. I was for a long time Secretary of the Horticultural Society, and he wrote a very pressing request that I would obtain for him an engagement to lecture upon agricultural chemistry. He added, that owing to most terrible destitution he was unable to pay the postage of the letter, stating that his dying wife and daughter had tasted no food for two days, and every article he could dispose of was gone. By the same post in which I sent a very commiserating letter (declining his lectures, but telling him I had started a subscription for him), I also wrote to a friend in —, accepting an invitation to dinner. By some mistake I put the letters into the wrong envelopes, and when I reached my friend's house was regarded as a little beside myself. From Professor Dewhurst (as he then called himself) I received a very abusive letter for wantonly trifling with his feelings, in telling a man who had eaten nothing for two days from sheer poverty, that I should be delighted to have the pleasure of dining with him. His language opened my eyes.—I stopped the subscription, and in less than a month saw his name in the Police Reports as a well-known offender against the mendicancy laws. It was then stated that he lived in style, and kept a secretary. "A CONSTANT READER."

George Cruikshank.—Among the veterans, the old pictorial satirists, we have mentioned the famous name of one humorous designer who is still alive and at work. Did we not see, by his own hand, his own portrait of his own famous

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Πολύαι μὲν θρησκείαι ἔσονται, μία ὁ ἀθανάσιος.

face and whiskers, in the 'Illustrated London News' the other day! There was a print in that paper of an assemblage of teetotallers in Sadler's Wells Theatre, and we straightway recognised the old Roman hand—the old Roman's of the time of Plancus—George Cruikshank's. There were the old bonnets and droll faces and shoes, and short trousers, and figures of 1820 sure enough. And there was George (who has taken to the water-dog, as all the world knows) handing some teetotallers over a plank to the table where the pledge was being administered. How often has George drawn that picture of Cruikshank! Where haven't we seen it! How fine it was, facing the effigy of Mr. Ainsworth in 'Ainsworth's Magazine' when George illustrated that periodical! How grand and severe he stands in that design in G. C.'s 'Omnibus,' where he represents himself tongued like St. Dunstan, and tweaking a wretch of a publisher by the nose! The collectors of George's etchings—O the charming etchings! O the dear old German popular tales!—the capital 'Points of Humour'—the delightful Phenology and scrap-books, of the good time, our time—Plancus's in fact!—the collectors of the Georgian etchings, we say, have at least a hundred pictures of the artist. Why, we remember him in his favourite Hessian boots in 'Tom and Jerry' itself; and in woodcuts as far back as the Queen's trial. He has rather deserted satire and comedy of late years, having turned his attention to the serious, and warlike, and sublime. Having confessed our age and prejudices, we prefer the comic and fanciful to the historic, romantic, and at present didactic George. May respect, and length of days, and comfortable repose attend the brave, honest, kindly, pure-minded artist, humorist, moralist! It was he first who brought English pictorial humour and children acquainted. Our young people and their fathers and mothers owe him many a pleasant hour and harmless laugh. Is there no way in which the country could acknowledge the long services and brave career of such a friend and benefactor!—*Thackeray in Quarterly Review*.

American Students at Oxford.—It is interesting to inquire how the recent reforms in the English universities affect the position of students from the United States. A gentleman who has recently been in Oxford, has acquainted us with the result of his inquiries upon the subject. The information which he gives was obtained from an official source of high authority, and may therefore be considered as perfectly reliable. The following are its most important points:—"Henceforward, a student from the United States may matriculate in the University of Oxford without taking any oath whatever, or signing any religious articles. He may also take the Degree of Bachelor of Arts, without oaths, subscription, or declaration of any kind, but not the degree of Master of Arts, nor any higher degree. He may take 'Honours' at the several University examinations. All Prizes and Public Scholarships would be open to him, and, in a very few cases, scholarships in particular colleges. Degrees conferred by American colleges are not recognised at Oxford, the only universities which are recognised at present being Cambridge (Eng.) and Dublin. A Bachelor of Arts from the United States cannot, therefore, be admitted in Oxford *ad eundem*. Cambridge (Eng.) is believed to be identical with Oxford in all these regulations." While we rejoice at the triumph of the liberal party in England, in gaining these and other concessions which are of the highest importance to Dissenters in that country, we do not consider that the recent reforms are likely to affect many students in this country. We believe that those who thoroughly pursue the course marked out in our only two complete Universities, at Cambridge and New Haven, and in some of our other institutions, will be as thorough scholars, and have a better education than most of the graduates at Oxford or Cambridge, in England. If an American student goes abroad at all, he will usually find far more advantages in Germany than in England.—*American Literary Gazette*.

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